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REPORT

ON THE

Health of the County Borough of Belfast for the Year 1953

WILLIAM GEORGE SWANN, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Medical Officer of Health



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FOR THE YEAR 1953

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Medical Officer of Health

Health Committee

1953

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BELFAST

Summary of Vital Statistics

Area (Census 1951) (Exclusive of 1,223 acres of tidal water)	15,357 acres
Population	...	...	...	450,800 (estimate of Registrar-General for N.I., June, 1953)
Marriages	...	...	...	3,625
Marriage Rate	...	...	...	8.05
Births Registered	...	...	...	8,527 (4,431 males ; 4,096 females)
Birth Rate	...	...	...	18.9
Birth Rate average for the ten years 1944-1953	...	...	...	21.2
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	270 (145 males ; 125 females)
Births (notified)	...	...	...	10,879
Still Births (included in total births notified)	...	...	...	316
Deaths	...	...	...	4,653 (2,359 males ; 2,294 females)
Death Rate...	...	...	...	10.3
Death Rate average for the ten years 1944-1953	...	...	...	11.3
Deaths of infants under one year of age	...	...	...	380 (232 males ; 148 females)
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	45 deaths per 1,000 births
Average for the ten years 1944-1953	...	...	...	58 deaths per 1,000 births
Neo-natal Deaths (under one month)	...	...	...	183
Neo-natal Death Rate	...	...	...	21 per 1,000 births
Average for the ten years 1944-1953	...	...	...	28.26 per 1,000 births
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	6
Death Rate...	...	...	...	0.70 per 1,000 births registered
Deaths from Communicable Diseases listed in Table VI	...	...	...	108
Death Rate from these Diseases	...	...	...	0.2
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	8
Deaths from Diphtheria	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age)	...	...	...	70
Deaths from Dysentery	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Influenza	...	...	...	24
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	114
Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	0.2
Deaths from Bronchitis	...	...	...	176
Deaths from Pneumonia	...	...	...	266

To

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor (Alderman Sir Percival Brown, C.B.E.)
and the Aldermen and Councillors of the Belfast County Borough Council, acting
as The Belfast County Borough Health Authority and The Belfast Port Sanitary
Authority.

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year 1953.

On the 30th September, 1953, Dr. S. Barron, Medical Officer of Health, retired after devoting practically the whole of his professional career to the services of this Corporation. He entered the service as a Medical Officer of the Purdysburn Fever Hospital, his first appointment, and apart from Military Service in the First World War remained in the Belfast Health Department till his retirement. It is appropriate that tribute should be paid in this report, which covers the last period of his office as Medical Officer of Health, to the outstanding and devoted service he has given. His most important contribution was perhaps in the field of environmental health but he also saw the development of the Maternal and Child Health as well as the School Health Department from small beginnings to a service which in many ways compares favourably with any comparable City. He takes with him in his retirement the knowledge of having accomplished much for the health and well-being of the citizens of Belfast as well as the good wishes of those who had the privilege of serving under him.

The death rate once again reached the record rate of 10.3 which was attained in 1948 and the infantile mortality rate was 45 per 1,000 live births compared with 47 in 1952 and the lowest for the city of 44 in 1951. The greatest number of deaths, which occurred in April and May, were due to pneumonia and bronchitis following catarrhal infections associated with spells of cold weather.

The report of the Health Department's work during the year is comprised of the Environmental Health Section, School Health Services and Maternal and Child Health Services and comment is accordingly limited as Dr. Barron was Medical Officer of Health during 9 months of the period.

One important development has been the introduction of B.C.G. vaccination of school children against Tuberculosis. The Belfast Health Authority, as agents of the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority, during the current year offered B.C.G. vaccination to children in the 11+ to 13+ age groups as the young adolescent is especially liable to develop Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The scheme has been favourably received by parents whose consent is obtained before testing for susceptibility and for the actual vaccination. Under this scheme 5,254 children were tested and 1,612 immunised.

I wish to thank all the staff for their help during my period of office and in particular the Senior Officers, who have had a large part of the work involved in the compilation of their respective sections of this Report. I acknowledge the support and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee since my promotion to Medical Officer of Health.

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. SWANN,

*Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer
and Medical Inspector of Aliens.*

TABLE I
BELFAST COUNTY BOROUGH
CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGE PERIODS, 1953

Abbreviated List Nos.	Causes of Death	Total Deaths	MALES										FEMALES																					
			All Ages	AGED							Total Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75 & Over	All Ages	AGED							Total Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75 & Over
				Under 1 mth	9-12 mths	13-19 mths	20-29 mths	30-49 mths	50-69 mths	70-99 mths										Under 1 mth	9-12 mths	13-19 mths	20-29 mths	30-49 mths	50-69 mths	70-99 mths								
	All Causes	4,653	2,359	110	90	32	232	24	26	138	704	608	603	2,294	73	49	26	148	15	12	26	135	494	640	824									
B1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	114	71	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	37	13	6	43	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	19	11	5	1									
B2	Tuberculosis, other Forms	17	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	3	3	2									
B3	Syphilis and its sequelae	15	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—									
B4	Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B5	Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B6	Dysentery, all Forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B7	Scarlet Fever and streptococcal sore throat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B8	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B9	Whooping Cough	8	3	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B10	Meningococcal Infections	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B11	Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B12	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B13	Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B14	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B15	Typhus and other Rickettsial diseases	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B16	Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
B17	Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1									
B18	Malignant Neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues (a) Cancer (b) Hodgkins diseases and Leukaemia	15	11	1	2	2	5	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	758	393	—	—	—	—	3	—	26	160	128	76	365	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	29	131	124	79									
B19	Diabetes Mellitus	23	12	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4	2	—	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	5	1	1									
B20	Anacnias	23	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	3	3									
B21	Vascular Lesions affecting Central Nervous System	27	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	10	7									
B22	Nonmeningococcal Meningitis	24	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	8									
B23		631	251	—	1	—	1	—	2	6	69	76	97	380	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	8	86	128	157									
		6	3	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—									

TABLE II

Showing the number of deaths, the death rates and the percentage of total deaths by age groups

Age Group (Years)	Deaths			Rate per 1,000 of population of age group	Percentage of Total Deaths	
	Male	Female	Total		1953	1952
Under 1 Year	232	148	380	48.1	8.1	8.35
1—4	24	15	39	1.2	0.8	1.02
5—14	24	12	36	0.5	0.7	0.87
15—24	26	26	52	0.7	1.1	1.17
25—44	138	135	273	2.2	5.08	6.02
45—64	704	494	1,198	12.7	25.7	25.7
65—74	608	640	1,248	48.6	26.8	25.8
75 and over	603	824	1,427	117.0	32.8	30.9

TABLE III

The Principal causes of deaths (in order of importance) were as follows:—

1. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,155
2. Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	758
3. Vascular Lesions affecting the Central Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	...	631
4. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	266
5. Violent or Accidental Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
6. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
7. Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
8. Senility and Ill-defined and Unknown Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	99

TABLE IV

Trend of mortality from certain principal causes of death in Belfast from 1934

Year	Heart Disease	Rate per 1,000	Cancer	Rate per 1,000	Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	Rate per 1,000	Bronchitis Influenza Pneumonia	Rate per 1,000
1934	855	2.06	513	1.23	398	0.96	773	1.86
1935	915	2.2	480	1.16	389	0.93	938	2.26
1936	1,280	2.93	585	1.34	406	0.93	770	1.77
1937	1,306	2.98	564	1.28	414	0.95	1,013	2.31
1938	1,314	2.96	568	1.28	348	0.78	748	1.69
1939	1,344	3.03	572	1.29	365	0.82	630	1.42
1940	1,387	3.1	576	1.29	412	0.93	1,001	2.25
1941	1,277	2.87	570	1.28	426	0.96	773	1.74
1942	995	2.24	633	1.42	369	0.83	564	1.27
1943	1,116	2.63	613	1.44	367	0.86	705	1.66
1944	1,098	2.54	620	1.44	354	0.82	544	1.26
1945	1,130	2.59	664	1.52	326	0.75	533	1.22
1946	1,302	2.92	682	1.53	343	0.77	692	1.55
1947	1,482	3.29	662	1.47	281	0.62	618	1.37
1948	1,281	2.81	696	1.53	269	0.59	438	0.96
1949	1,407	3.09	699	1.54	280	0.61	536	1.18
1950	1,500	3.33	717	1.59	225	0.5	565	1.26
1951	1,630	3.67	693	1.56	221	0.49	813	1.83
1952	1,416	3.18	757	1.7	151	0.34	483	1.0
1953	1,155	2.56	758	1.68	114	0.26	466	1.03

TABLE V
Comparative Statistics for Counties and County Boroughs, 1953

Counties and County Boroughs	Rate per 1,000 Population		Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Births	Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality
Belfast County Borough ...	18·9	10·3	45	0·70
Londonderry County Borough ...	28·1	9·9	44	—
Antrim County ...	21·2	10·4	32	0·41
Armagh County ...	21·8	11·2	33	0·80
Down County ...	20·2	10·7	30	0·61
Fermanagh County ...	22·2	12·4	36	1·70
Londonderry County ...	22·3	10·6	41	0·42
Tyrone County ...	23·6	11·7	37	0·32

TABLE VI

Showing the number of deaths from certain communicable Diseases during the ten years, 1944-1953

YEAR	Typhoid Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever	Cerebro- Spinal Fever	Poliomyelitis	Measles	Influenza	Diarrhoea	Dysentery	Whooping Cough
1944	—	2	11	4	3	—	1	21	202	1	22
1945	1	2	7	5	2	4	10	16	188	1	26
1946	—	2	2	3	2	3	5	54	127	—	31
1947	7	—	3	1	—	4	42	27	123	1	35
1948	1	—	4	—	—	—	9	10	77	1	15
1949	1	—	6	—	—	—	3	29	109	2	9
1950	1	2	3	—	5	11	5	32	37*	—	16
1951	—	1	1	—	4	2	3	232	54*	4	4
1952	—	—	—	—	4	2	4	18	43*	—	10
1953	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	24	70*	—	8

*—Under two years of age

TABLE VII

Showing the population, the number of Births, the Birth Rate per 1,000, the number of Deaths, the Death Rate per 1,000, and the natural increase during the twenty years, 1934-1953

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth Rate per 1,000	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000	Natural Increase
1934	415,151	9,086	21.9	5,676	13.7	3,410
1935	415,151	8,848	21.3	6,238	15.0	2,610
1936	436,000	9,242	21.2	6,207	14.2	3,035
1937	438,112	9,150	20.9	6,341	14.5	2,809
1938	443,500	9,146	20.6	6,069	13.7	3,077
1939	443,500	8,966	20.2	5,758	12.9	3,208
1940	444,500	8,704	19.6	6,583	14.8	2,121
1941	444,500	8,383	18.9	6,641	14.9	1,742
1942	444,500	9,059	21.7	4,973	11.2	4,686
1943	425,000	10,713	25.2	5,511	13.0	5,202
1944	430,800	10,456	24.3	5,176	12.0	5,280
1945	435,900	9,853	22.6	5,069	11.6	4,784
1946	444,687	10,327	23.2	5,326	11.9	5,001
1947	450,000	10,505	23.3	5,289	11.7	5,216
1948	455,020	9,744	21.4	4,684	10.3	5,060
1949	454,340	9,185	20.2	5,226	11.5	3,959
1950	450,000	8,834	19.6	5,082	11.3	3,752
1951	444,222	8,789	19.8	5,433	12.2	3,356
1952	444,200	8,506	19.1	4,778	10.8	3,728
1953	450,800	8,527	18.9	4,653	10.3	3,874

TABLE VIII
BELFAST COUNTY BOROUGH
Deaths from Cancer by Sex and Site, 1953

Detailed List Nos.	SITES	Males	Females
	Buccal Cavity and Pharynx		
140	Lip	—	1
141	Tongue	5	2
142	Salivary Gland	1	—
143-144	Mouth	1	1
145-148	Pharynx	6	5
	Digestive Organs and Peritoneum		
150	Oesophagus	17	8
151	Stomach	63	62
152-153	Intestines	39	51
154	Rectum	23	15
155-156	Biliary Passages and Liver	9	14
157	Pancreas	20	14
158	Peritoneum	2	2
159	Other Digestive Organs	—	2
	Respiratory System		
160	Nose, Nasal Cavities, etc.	—	—
161	Larynx	7	2
162-163	Trachea, Bronchus and Lungs... ..	97	18
164	Mediastinum	2	—
	Breast and Genito-Urinary Organs		
170	Breast	1	51
171-174	Uterus	—	46
175	Ovary, Fallopian tube and Broad Ligament	—	11
176	Other Female Genital Organs	—	3
177	Prostate	29	—
178	Testis	2	—
179	Other Male Genital Organs	2	—
180	Kidney	5	2
181	Bladder and Other Urinary Organs	19	11
	Other and Unspecified Sites		
190-191	Skin	3	2
192	Eye	—	—
193	Brain and other parts of the Nervous System	10	4
194	Thyroid Gland	2	4
195	Other Endocrine Glands	—	1
196	Bone	7	4
197	Connective Tissue	1	—
198-199	Other Sites	13	20
200-202 } 203-205 }	Neoplasms of Lymphatic and Haematopoietic Tissues... ..	7	9
	TOTAL	393	365

TABLE IX

Showing by age periods and sexes the number of cases of certain communicable Diseases notified.

DISEASE	Under 1 Year		1 Year and under 2 Years		2 Years and under 5 Years		5 Years and under 10 Years		10 Years and under 15 Years		15 Years and under 25 Years		25 Years and under 45 Years		45 Years and upwards		Age unknown		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	8
Dysentery	10	12	6	11	14	14	12	8	2	3	3	5	1	4	1	5	—	—	112
Scarlet Fever	1	1	12	9	98	84	143	162	36	40	5	8	3	1	1	—	5	3	612
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	5	3	—	2	4	4	1	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	29
Poliomyelitis	3	—	2	3	4	4	6	3	3	4	6	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	47

MEASLES—3,146 Cases notified.

WHOOPING COUGH—945 Cases notified.

TABLE X

Showing the number of cases of certain communicable Diseases notified during the ten years 1944w1953.

	Typhoid Fever	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Cerebro- Spinal Meningitis	Polio- myelitis	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas
1944	5	6	—	1,679	217	48	5	5	67
1945	14	5	—	768	213	39	20	1	76
1946	13	6	—	753	220	39	8	1	95
1947	43	1	—	1,144	115	24	61	1	77
1948	6	18	—	931	107	25	8	4	108
1949	3	33	34	2,931	107	25	13	1	98
1950	5	35	55	1,668	45	22	109	4	82
1951	24	170	40	349	10	34	36	4	39
1952	7	69	16	399	3	44	65	56	49
1953	8	112	26	612	1	29	47	55	53

TABLE XI

Showing notifications of, and deaths from certain communicable diseases in the year 1953 with comparisons with the year 1952 and the averages for the years 1943-1952.

	Notifica- tions 1953	Notifica- tions 1952	Average Annual Notifica- tions 1943-52	Deaths 1953	Deaths 1952	Average Annual Deaths 1943-52
Diphtheria	1	3	136	—	—	5
Scarlet Fever	612	399	1,259	—	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	29	44	37	2	4	2.5
Poliomyelitis	49	65	33	1	2	2
Measles	3,146	2,702	2,908	3	4	9
Whooping Cough	945	2,131	1,085	8	10	21
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	614	505	*	70	43	*
Dysentery	112	69	36	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	8	7	15	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	26	16	*	1	—	*

* Indicates figures not available.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year 5,441 children completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria; of these 3,555 were immunised by the Health Committee's Medical Officers at Clinics, schools, etc., and 1,886 by general practitioners. In addition 4,408 children received reinforcing injections, 4,199 by Health Committee's Medical Officers and 209 by general practitioners.

Table Showing Age Grouping of Immunised Children

Age at end of Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	At end of 1953
0—	33	71	36	69	33	57	72	99	89	54	116	147	158	
1—	906	1,634	2,576	2,492	2,445	2,329	2,475	2,597	2,453	1,642	1,982	2,167	1,809	Age Groups 1—4 years 12,020 =37%
2—	1,405	1,373	1,642	1,329	1,474	1,554	1,259	1,236	1,291	892	1,210	937	885	
3—	1,258	985	1,043	628	614	752	517	523	633	381	393	413	329	
4—	1,228	937	997	453	358	514	430	352	382	248	224	196	240	
5—	1,262	929	1,022	663	542	557	604	562	699	612	520	690	526	Age-group 5—9 years 30,617 =76%
6—	1,408	1,123	1,133	965	810	691	664	655	881	762	669	912	782	
7—	1,356	1,017	963	802	678	615	480	360	595	500	441	464	398	
8—	995	567	706	492	360	328	263	186	221	237	193	210	177	
9—	647	315	382	251	170	132	121	61	91	80	81	76	45	
10—	1,236	735	741	282	267	233	191	125	279	76	102	128	92	
TOTAL	11,734	9,686	11,031	8,428	7,751	7,762	7,076	6,756	7,614	5,484	5,931	6,340	5,441	

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Age at end Year	1952	1953	Total of Age Group At End of Year
0—	—	99	99 (1%)
0—	68	—	
1—	—	1,023	1,091 (12%)
1—	527	—	
2—	—	354	881 (10%)
2—	123	—	
3+	77	131	331

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

There were no epidemics during the year, although there were more cases of measles and gastro-enteritis than usual. It is to be noted that more time is spent on the investigation and control of intestinal infections (gastro-enteritis, dysentery, enteric fever and food poisoning) than on the respiratory infections which in the past, were our main concern.

Diphtheria : One case occurred in a non-immunised child. Six brothers and sisters of this case all had unhealthy tonsils but swabs showed an absence of diphtheria bacilli.

Scarlet Fever : There was an increased incidence over last year but the disease remains mild in character and there were no deaths among the 612 cases. In contrast to the diphtheria bacillus which has been defeated by the immunised host, the scarlet fever bacillus appears to be achieving an equilibrium with its host, where neither interferes seriously with the health and well-being of the other.

The changed character of scarlet fever in recent years is illustrated by the following figures:—

Period	Total Cases	Deaths	Hospitalised	Return Cases
1919—1923	7,227	281	92%	2·2%
1949—1953	5,850	3	40%	1·2%

The two periods selected each comprise one epidemic and one inter-epidemic part of the cycle. The low fatality is now well established. The fall in the number of cases is more apparent than real as more cases are now missed due to their having such slight symptoms.

During 1953, 353 cases were nursed at home, under supervised isolation ; these gave rise to 9 secondary cases. 259 cases were removed to hospital, in spite of which 5 secondary cases occurred, with, in addition, 4 return cases following discharge of hospitalised children. Thus, there is little to be gained in admitting scarlet fever cases to hospital : the percentage so admitted (42%) could be reduced with benefit to all concerned. The home circumstances remain the primary criterion.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever : The number of confirmed cases, 29, was well below the average. The highest incidence was in infancy with 8 cases under one year of age. There were 2 deaths, so that this disease is still a serious one.

Poliomyelitis : This disease was confirmed in 46 cases, with the age distribution as follows:—

TYPE	AGE GROUPS						TOTAL
	0—	2—	5—	10—	20+		
Paralytic ...	6	3	5	3	4		21
Non-Paralytic ...	0	4	6	8	7		25
TOTALS ...	6	7	11	11	11		46

There was one fatal case, a young man who had played Rugby a few days before the onset of paralysis. The remaining paralytic cases had paralysis of one site only. Following two cases in each of two schools, restrictions were placed on physical activities and close attention directed to personal hygiene, after which no further cases arose.

In spite of the low incidence of the disease in Belfast, there was some public anxiety due to the publicity given to a high incidence in other parts of Northern Ireland.

Measles : There were 3,146 notified cases with 3 deaths in the age group 1-12 months.

Over the last three years, this disease shows an annual periodicity in place of the former biennial one. The autumnal depression is now revealed. A rising incidence before August is checked or reversed during that month and resumed in late September ; alternatively a falling incidence is accelerated in that period. No explanation for this phenomenon has been found ; it is unlikely to be due to school holidays as it occurs in England in the same period, even where holidays are taken a month later than in Belfast. However, it does appear to be one of the factors which deters the restoration of biennial epidemics by cutting short the spread of the disease before the majority of susceptibles have been affected.

Whooping Cough : There were 945 cases notified and 8 deaths registered, the age distribution being as follows:—

		AGE GROUPS								
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	6+	Not Known	
Cases	...	154	123	148	131	122	129	120	18	
Deaths	...	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Of the fatal cases, 4 were under six months of age. This emphasises that, if whooping cough immunisation is to be effective in saving lives, it should be commenced as early as two months of age.

During the year an outbreak occurred in a nursery school with 28 children between 2 and 5 years of age : the final result was:—

- 5 had whooping cough in infancy and were not affected ;
- 10 developed cough with a typical whoop ;
- 9 developed cough without a whoop ;
- 4 remained apparently unaffected.

Only one of these cases was notified by a general practitioner. The other interesting points are the high rate of infectivity (18 out of 22 at risk developed the illness), and the absence of a whoop in nearly half of the cases. As far as is known none of the children had been inoculated against whooping cough.

Typhoid Fever : There was a total of 8 confirmed cases, comprising one type A, contracted outside Belfast ; three cases of type E1, source undetected and not apparently related ; three cases of type C, contracted by drinking from a sewage contaminated stream ; and one case, type unknown.

Food Poisoning : There were no outbreaks of this disease : all cases were sporadic and bacteriological samples from home contacts were uniformly negative. General practitioners notified 9 cases, of which 4 were confirmed bacteriologically. The remainder were cases admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of dysentery or gastro-enteritis following which salmonella were isolated on bacteriological culture.

The organisms isolated included *Salmonella typhimurium*—17 cases ; *S. thompson*—2 cases ; and *S. newport*—3 cases.

There was one fatal case, an elderly man who had a long history of chronic intestinal illness.

Dysentery : There were 131 confirmed cases, an increase of 60 over last year. The impression gained this year is that notification is improving although still inadequate.

The organism concerned was mainly the *Shigella sonne* : a very few cases of the flexner type occurred. All but 8 of the cases were hospitalised.

The series comprises two institutional outbreaks of 10 and 12 cases, four family outbreaks with a total of 11 cases and the remainder sporadic cases.

It is felt that this is a low level of incidence for a large industrial city and fully justifies the time spent on explanation and instruction in hygiene in the families concerned. In addition the institutions involved have co-operated with the Health Department very completely.

IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria reached its lowest level since 1938, the next lowest year being 1950. It is sufficient to draw attention to the fact that these two years 1950 and 1953, were the only years when practitioners were circularised with advice to stop immunisation in view of the relationship of poliomyelitis with inoculations.

Other factors which hinder our immunisation programme are the almost complete absence of diphtheria; the increasing and varied duties of Health visitors which allow less time for encouraging immunisation and the fact that the more lengthy procedure of B.C.G. immunisation exhausts the mother's patience.

Attention should also be drawn to the unfortunate sequence in which an anti-diphtheria inoculation reactivates an apparently quiescent B.C.G. lesion. This has occurred on three occasions during the year. This is a strong reason for limiting B.C.G. inoculation in infants to one arm, leaving the other free for equally important procedures. This reactivation of B.C.G. lesions has not been noted in relation to smallpox vaccination.

Combined whooping cough-diphtheria immunisation is provided for children under 3 years of age. Our immunised children were not subject to much infection this year, the incidence of whooping cough being low : 3 cases were exposed to infection in their own home and did not contract the disease; one case so exposed fell ill with an attack of moderate severity.

About 20% of children inoculated with the combined antigen show some signs of irritability or fretfulness within the 24 hours following the inoculation.

Vaccination against Smallpox:

Performed by	Successful	Insusceptible	Total
General Practitioners ...	4876	813 (14%)	5689
Health Authority Doctors ...	1168	50 (4%)	1218
Total ...	6044	863 (12.5%)	6907

This total of 6,907 represents 81% of the total live births in 1953. The slight increase in the number of infants recorded as insusceptible is probably due to the fact that one batch of lymph was found to be of very low potency. The percentage of insusceptible infants recorded by general practitioners is unduly high and reflects a lack of interest in vaccination on the part of some.

There was considerable activity on the part of anti-vaccinationists during the year ; two public meetings were held and attracted considerable Press publicity. This does not appear to have influenced the number of infants being submitted to vaccination, the number being 500 more than last year when the number of births was almost the same.

During the year the vaccination enforcement officer made 2,425 visits to houses of children in respect of whom no certificate of vaccination had been received, with the following results:—

Found to be vaccinated	...	...	...	...	27
Stated to be vaccinated, no evidence offered	...	...	...	...	260
Infants ill or unfit	...	...	...	...	259
Advised to go to General Practitioner or clinic	...	...	...	...	855
Not at address given	...	...	...	...	300
Infants deceased	...	...	...	...	3
No admission	...	...	...	...	721
Total ...					2,425

In addition to the work recorded in other paragraphs of this report the Sanitary Officers continued their general duties of investigating complaints, abating nuisances and dealing with contraventions of the Public Health and other Acts. The duties carried out during the year included the systematic sanitary inspection of dwelling houses, the supervision of offensive trades, and for certain sanitary purposes, the inspection of factories, shops and offices, sanitation in schools, rodent and insect pest control, the supervision of bakehouses, dairies and cowsheds, and the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream, the supervision of atmospheric conditions in cinemas, theatres, dance halls, places where hairdressing is carried on, establishments where food is cooked, stored or offered for sale, and the protection of the public against the exposure for sale, or the sale of unsound, unfit or impure food. This skilful work included the supervision of methods of preparation of the food in addition to official sampling, the enforcement of the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Acts and Orders, the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) (Northern Ireland) Regulations, etc.

Until recent years Belfast has been comparatively immune from the development of insanitary conditions arising from the unauthorised use of land by the nomadic type of van dwellers, but for no apparent reason a steady increase in the incidence of such occurrences has taken place during the year. The itinerants were housed mostly in tents composed of old canvas and sacking. In one encampment, there were nine caravans and twelve tents, housing twenty separate families, consisting of sixty-three adults and fifty-two children (one hundred and fifteen persons). In another encampment consisting of six tents and one caravan, there were sixteen adults and fourteen children.

The conditions under which these people lived are difficult to describe ; no proper shelter ; no sanitary accommodation ; no water supply for any purpose and no receptacles for the storage of refuse. The ground surrounding the encampments was in a filthy state, being littered with all types of rubbish and garbage. The surface of the ground inside the tents, on which the occupants squat, was covered with old lino and straw mattresses. All the occupants and especially the children, were filthy and ill-clad. A case of infectious disease occurred, necessitating the removal of the patient to hospital.

During the year it was found necessary after repeated warnings to issue sixty-one Statutory Notices, for breaches under the Public Health Acts, to the occupants of these shacks at different sites. Fifty summonses were subsequently issued for non-compliance with the Statutory Notices. In some instances the summons server was unable to effect service due to incorrect information regarding names. Thirty-three Orders were made by the Resident Magistrate at Petty Sessions to abate the nuisances complained of. It was also found necessary in thirty-three cases to issue summonses for disobedience of the Magistrate's Orders. The total fines imposed by the Courts amounted to £164 6s. 6d.

The facts as stated were reported by the Medical Officer of Health to the Health Committee, and they, realising the futility of trying to deal with a problem which was becoming more widespread and difficult under the present legislation, which is inadequate for the present situation, made representation to the Ministry of Health and Local Government, asking that steps should be taken to introduce legislation which would give local authorities effective powers to control this type of itinerant. The Ministry of Home Affairs has since stated that suitable and effective legislation will be introduced at an early date.

Special attention was paid to all food premises including cafes, restaurants and snack bars, and letters were sent to owners requesting alterations to be carried out. The common defects met with were premises having a floor area much too small for the volume of business carried on, especially the kitchens ; cooking equipment badly sited in the kitchens, rendering cleansing impossible or difficult ; ventilation inadequate and no proper means of collecting fumes and steam and of carrying them to the outer air ; no proper food storage accommodation or facilities for cleansing and sterilising the equipment ; crockery and cutlery inadequate ; the absence of proper washing facilities for the staff and lighting insufficient to enable an adequate standard of cleanliness to be maintained. In some cases structural alterations were necessary to put the premises into compliance with the Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948.

It is recognised that the only satisfactory method of effecting proper supervision of catering establishments is by the system of registration similar to that at present in operation for ice cream and fish and chips trades, which is contained in the Sale of Ice Cream Act (Northern Ireland), 1937 and the Belfast Corporation (General Powers) Act, 1948. These Acts give the Health Committee power to refuse or cancel registration. This procedure has not imposed a hardship on the trades

mentioned, in fact, the Northern Ireland Fish Friers Association has welcomed registration. If applied to the catering trade as a whole, a prospective trader would know, before embarking on the project, whether the premises he intended to use and the equipment, etc., to be installed would meet with the approval of the local authority, instead, as at present, establishing his business only to find that he contravenes some legal enactment and is liable to legal proceedings. In the interests of the reputable trader, therefore, this proposal is to be commended. Unless it is adopted it is felt that no permanent solution of many of the present problems will be reached.

In previous reports comments have been made upon the bad housing conditions in the City and in this matter, where it has been possible to exercise a practical control, it has again been used to the fullest extent, with generally satisfactory results. In many instances, however, the utmost that could be expected was to prevent a further worsening of the conditions and in this the ultimate results were indeed far below the target aimed at. In regard to the remedying of disrepair in private houses, the high cost of this very important work appears to be an insoluble problem to many owners, whose properties are on the borderline of condemnation. During the year appeals for condemnation of old houses were frequently made by the owners when the question of disrepair was under discussion. The solution lies in providing a certain number of houses to relieve the above unsatisfactory conditions.

The question of re-housing problem families was under consideration during the year. Everyone who has visited a family living in squalor and filth knows what a depressing sight it is. Some of the conditions are brought about by these persons residing in dwellings which by reason of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement or design, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities, or any combination of these factors, are detrimental to safety, health or morals. The Medical Officer of Health made representations to the Health Committee, and it is hoped that arrangements will be made in the near future to cater for this type of family.

During the mosquito control season a new technique of control was introduced by the purchase of a Lister-Todd Insecticidal Fog Applicator. This is an indication of progress and is opportune at a time when labour costs are high. The mechanical performance of the machine is far beyond what could be accomplished by manual effect and at a fraction of the cost. It is capable of fogging a building of 300,000 cubic feet in 30 minutes, conveying particles of insecticide to all parts of the building where the fog can penetrate, or of blanketing with fog 30 acres in two hours under suitable atmospheric conditions. Its use is manifold either in the application of insecticides or disinfectants.

The Public Health control of food hawkers was again reviewed. It must be emphasised that the conditions under which foodstuffs are exposed and sold are far from satisfactory. It is hoped that the Ministry of Health and Local Government will introduce suitable legislation at an early date for regulating the sale of food in the open air.

On 31st December, 1952, the Minister of Health and Local Government revoked Section 16 of the Housing and Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland), 1946. This section imposed a penalty or imprisonment on any person, who, without the permission in writing of the local authority within whose area a dwelling house was situated, demolished, in whole or in part, or used otherwise than as a dwelling house, any house which in the opinion of the local authority was reasonably fit or reasonably capable without being reconstructed of being rendered fit for human habitation. Powers are contained in the Planning Acts for dealing with this problem; nevertheless, the revocation of this section may in certain instances lead to rooms in dwelling houses being converted into business premises, thereby reducing the amount of living accommodation and to some extent aggravating the problem of overcrowding.

As part of the re-organisation scheme within the Department which was effected on the first day of January, 1953, the previous system of analysing complaints and sanitary work generally by Dispensary districts was replaced by Municipal Electoral Wards. The City is divided into four Divisions and fifteen Wards as follows:—

DIVISION :

WARDS :

NORTH	...	...	DOCK, DUNCAIRN, CLIFTON, COURT
SOUTH	...	...	ST. ANNE'S, ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, CROMAC
EAST	...	...	ORMEAU, POTTINGER, VICTORIA
WEST	...	...	SHANKILL, WOODVALE, SMITHFIELD, FALLS

The purpose of re-organisation was to reduce to a minimum the amount of recording necessary by Sanitary Officers, and to enable details to be noted at the source of complaint without further duplication. The Inspector records the remedy for each "NUISANCE" on a separate sheet carried in a loose leaf binder at the source of the nuisance and at the end of each working day these

are detached and passed to the Divisional Clerk who is responsible for the keeping of records and the issue of all Statutory Notices under the Public Health and other Acts. When on his district the Inspector uses a daily log sheet which gives a complete record of all inspections including re-inspections, work done and routine inspections. This transfer has operated smoothly and has brought about an efficient co-ordination of those departmental functions which are concerned with Statutory and other obligations in the sphere of environmental hygiene.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The system of sewerage and sewage disposal is under the control of the City Engineer and Surveyor. All areas of the City with the exception of isolated premises on the outskirts, are connected with the sewerage system. The drainage of Belfast is on the combined system and for drainage purposes the City is divided into two main areas, one a high level area from which sewage and storm water are discharged by gravity to the sewage outfall works, and the other a low level area from which discharge is by gravity to a main pumping station in Duncrue Street, where both sewage and storm water are pumped to the outfall works. This low level area comprises the central low-lying area of Belfast and all that part of the City which is situated on the County Down side of the River Lagan.

The sewage outfall works are situated in an area of 104 acres of slobland acquired and reclaimed under the powers of the Corporation Act of 1887. Here the sewage is passed through screens, detritus channels and sedimentation tanks into storage ponds and the effluent is discharged to sea during the first three-and-a-half hours of the ebb tide. The discharge culvert is a reinforced concrete structure carried on piles and divided by diaphragm walls into three separate culverts each six-feet-six-inches square. This culvert extends into Belfast Lough, a distance of one mile, and discharges the effluent in deep water.

The sludge resulting from the passage of the sewage through the sedimentation tanks is pumped through a steel main into a specially designed steamer in which it is conveyed to the mouth of Belfast Lough and deposited in deep water.

In addition to the Main Sewage Pumping Stations, district stations have been established in Shore Road and in Park Avenue, Sydenham, in connection with the drainage of areas in Counties Antrim and Down respectively. These stations are provided with electrically-driven pumps with automatic float controls, which discharge the sewage from their respective areas through pressure mains to the City sewers. Automatic electrically-operated pumping stations at Oxford Street, Distillery Street, River Terrace and Queen's Bridge deal with storm water at time of heavy rainfall.

During the year work on the second section of Knock Valley main trunk sewer was commenced and about one-third has been completed. When this contract has been completed, about two miles of main trunk sewer, varying from five feet to three feet diameter, will have been provided for new housing development taking place in this area of the City. The design and preparation of drawings for the proposed new High Level Intercepting Sewer have been completed, while the design of the proposed Sewage Outfall Works at Kinnegar has progressed further during the year. Plans have been prepared and work has commenced, or will shortly commence, on new sewer works at Falls Road, Richmond Park, Whiterock Road and Fortwilliam Park, and other main sewers have been laid in the Greencastle, Broadway, Knockbreda and Springfield Areas. The construction of a new pumping station at Sunnyside Street has been practically completed. New pumping plant is about to be installed at Sydenham Pumping Station and tenders have been accepted and work commenced on the manufacture of pumps to replace existing plant at Greencastle Pumping Station.

In addition to the main schemes mentioned above, a large amount of maintenance work had been carried out during the year, involving the cleansing of rivers, streams and sewers, the relaying and repair of defective sewers, overhaul and partial replacement of pumping and screening plant and the maintenance of the Corporation Sludge Steamer.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service is carried out by the City Surveyor's Department by means of direct labour, under the control of the Superintendent of Cleansing. There are 43 refuse collection vehicles of modern design employed for the collection of house and trade refuse. Over 134,000 dustbins are in use in the City and approximately 2,300 tons of refuse are collected weekly : of this figure about 130 tons are incinerated at the Refuse Destructor Works, Laganbank Road, and the remainder disposed of by controlled tipping. For this purpose five tipping grounds are being used ; one at Sydenham for the East side of the City, at Annadale Embankment and Newforge Lane for the South area, at Springfield Road and Beechmount Avenue for the North and West areas, and one at Duncrue Street for Greencastle area.

A weekly service for the removal of house refuse is provided to all parts of the City, while certain premises such as hotels, restaurants, etc., receive a daily service. By providing a weekly removal of house refuse the housewife is enabled to know the day and approximate time each week when the Cleansing employees will call, which tends to expedite the service and reduces the number of premises that would be recorded as "no-admittance."

In order to minimise fly breeding, ashbins were sprayed from May to October with a solution of D.D.T. each time after being emptied, while tipping grounds were treated during this period with either D.D.T. or Gammexane.

During the year Government restrictions prohibiting the galvanising of dustbins were relaxed. Galvanised refuse receptacles have a much longer life and withstand the action of weather and acids much better than painted receptacles. Under the Corporation dustbin hire scheme, these will again become available to the public.

Over 350 new flats are now occupied in the City where house refuse from the upper floors is emptied into metal refuse chutes which discharge into standard dustbins situated in enclosed cubicles at ground floor levels: this allows a free discharge of the refuse from the chutes into the containers. Arrangements are made for cleansing the chutes and appurtenances at least once weekly. This method appears to be working satisfactorily. During the year 141 inspections were carried out by Sanitary Officers to the 12 private and public tipping grounds within the City Boundary.

Water Supplies

Control of the public water supply is vested by Acts of Parliament in the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners, who supply all domestic water with the exception of a few houses on the outskirts of the City where no public water mains are yet provided. The supply is derived from three main catchment areas:—

1. Mourne Catchment and Works :

The catchment area of the Kilkeel and Annalong Valleys, consisting of upwards of 9,000 acres of mountain slopes, is free from human habitation. The storage reservoir has a maximum width of half-a-mile and a length of two-and-a-half miles. It is capable of storing 3,000,000,000 gallons of water. The Knockbracken service reservoir is situated about five miles from Belfast and has a capacity of 100 million gallons. The water is chlorinated at this point before passing to the consumer.

2. Woodburn Catchment and Works :

This catchment area consists of some 6,937 acres of upland and is almost entirely free from human habitation. The works comprise seven storage reservoirs, from which the water is conveyed to two service reservoirs at Oldpark, Belfast.

3. Stoneyford Catchment and Works :

This catchment area consists of uplands with an area of some 5,348 acres and, as in the case of the Woodburn catchment, these lands are largely owned by the Commissioners, and contain few human habitations. The yield of water from this catchment is equal to an average of about three million gallons per day.

In order to ensure adequate supplies to new housing estates, work continued throughout the year on constructing a new trunk main to carry water from one of the main Mourne feeders in the Knockbreda Road. When completed, this will ensure an abundant supply of wholesome water to the Knock area of the City.

During the year the Whiterock Pumping Scheme was completed, which enables an adequate water supply to be given to new houses on high ground at Whiterock and Highfield. This scheme, which consists of a Pumping Station and two reinforced concrete reservoirs, also makes provision for further development in the area. The lower reservoir has a capacity of one million gallons, and serves the Donegall Road area. The upper reservoir has a capacity of 750,000 gallons and serves the Whiterock and Highfield Housing sites and has provision for serving any new housing estates in Ballygomartin and Springfield Road areas. This extension is unique as houses in the district have previously been given only an intermittent supply.

General maintenance work has been continued. Supply pipes have been relaid wherever necessary, and close liaison is kept with the Belfast Corporation in order that such work is carried on in advance of their street reconstruction schemes.

Routine bacteriological examination of all waters was made by Professor W. J. Wilson, B.A., M.D., D.Sc., D.P.H., Director of Water Examinations to the Water Commissioners, until 31st October, when he retired from the position. On the 1st November, the duty of Water Examiners was taken up by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, and copies of results of all water examinations were submitted monthly to the Medical Officer of Health for his information.

During the year, 261 samples of water were taken from the different service reservoirs for examination: these were made up as follows—55 samples of raw water, 57 samples of filtered water, 87 samples of filtered and chlorinated water and 62 samples of chlorinated water.

The following is a summary of returns of water samples taken from consumers' taps and service mains throughout the City by Inspectors employed by the Belfast and District Water Commissioners also bacteriological results:—

Total number of samples taken	...	...	...	928
Number of samples taken from consumers' taps	...	...	...	471
Number of samples taken from service mains	...	...	...	457
Number of samples returned as highly satisfactory	...	...	...	844
Number of samples showing coliform organisms at 37°C.	...	...	...	84
Number of samples showing intestinal coli at 44°C.	...	...	...	13

In addition, 304 samples were taken from consumers' taps in the City by Sanitary Officers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory of the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority for bacteriological examination: 261 of these samples were reported as highly satisfactory and of the remaining 43 samples, 17 were found to be suspicious because of the presence of coliform organisms in a chlorinated and filtered water supply and 26 were found to be unsatisfactory because of the presence of faecal coli in addition to coliform organisms.

The suspicious and unsatisfactory samples are classified as follows:—

Coliform Organisms Count per 100 ml.	Number of Samples	Coliform Organisms of Faecal Origin Count per 100 ml.	Number of Samples
1·2	12	1·2	12
3·10	5	3·10	7
Greater than 10	—	Greater than 10	7
TOTAL ...	17	TOTAL ...	26

During the year 70 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from private wells, mostly situated in the outskirts of the City where there is no piped supply. The bacteriologist returned 30 of these samples as highly satisfactory, and of the remaining 40 samples, 3 were found to be suspicious because of the presence of coliform organisms, and 37 were found to be unsatisfactory because of the presence of faecal coli in addition to coliform organisms.

The suspicious and unsatisfactory samples are classified as follows:—

Coliform Organisms Count per 100 ml.	Number of Samples	Coliform Organisms of Faecal Origin Count per 100 ml.	Number of Samples
1·2	1	1·2	7
3·10	2	3·10	8
Greater than 10	—	Greater than 10	22
TOTAL ...	3	TOTAL ...	37

Public Swimming Baths

There are four public indoor swimming baths under the control of the Belfast Corporation. These are situated at Falls Road, Ormeau Avenue, Templemore Avenue and Peter's Hill, each having first and second class swimming pond accommodation: in addition there are 168 slipper

baths provided ; these are also divided into first and second class. Falls Road and Ormeau Avenue first and second class ponds have now been converted to " Break Point Chlorination " treatment of the water by the most modern equipment. Templemore Avenue Baths, first and second class ponds, are still on the " Marginal Chlorination " treatment of the water. The filtration system provided to these baths is capable of a turn-over of the pond water every four-and-a-half hours. Peter's Hill Baths has no plant for water treatment, and in this case frequent water changing and an improvised chlorination procedure has been adopted for both ponds.

It has been the practice of the Health Department for many years to have examined, bacteriologically, samples of water from the shallow and deep ends of each pond at least once a month. This is additional to the weekly tests made by Sanitary Officers at the baths to determine the degree of acidity, alkalinity, and the amount of free residual chlorine present in the water. During the year, 390 visits of inspection were made to the different indoor ponds and 160 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory of the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority.

An analysis of these samples is appended:—

Number of Samples taken	Result of Examination	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory or suspicious due to the presence of coliform organisms, some of faecal origin
160	149	11

In addition to the above 310 samples of water were also examined at the baths by Sanitary Officers. Of this number, 22 were found to be unsatisfactory and the necessary action was taken to improve conditions. A number of structural defects were discovered and reported to the Baths Superintendent.

There are two open air public swimming ponds controlled by the Parks and Cemeteries Committee. The pond at Victoria Park is filled with sea water drawn from the Connswater River. Alterations in the tide, current and weather must be taken into consideration at times of filling so as to prevent sewage polluted water entering the pond. The water in this pond is treated by " mechanical filtration " and " marginal chlorination." The raw sea water first passes through a settlement tank constructed to hold 10,000 gallons.

The water supply to the Falls Park Pond is obtained from a mountain stream, which passes through fields and meadows where cattle are grazed, and where there is danger of pollution from several sources. The present method adopted to deal with impurities during the season when the pond is open to the public consists of adding liquid " Chloros " and copper sulphate crystals to the pond water.

These open air ponds are regularly inspected by Sanitary Officers and samples of water obtained for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. It would appear from the number of unsatisfactory bacteriological examination reports on water samples taken over a number of years during the season when Falls Park Pond was open to the public, that the installation of modern equipment capable of efficient filtration and chlorination for the treatment of the water is necessary.

28 samples of water were obtained from open-air swimming ponds by Sanitary Officers for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. The bacteriologist reported 18 samples as highly satisfactory and 10 samples as suspicious or unsatisfactory due to the presence of coliform organisms, some of faecal origin. All the unsatisfactory samples were obtained from Falls Park pond. The suspicious and unsatisfactory samples are classified as follows:—

Coliform Organisms Count per 100 ml.	Number of Samples	Coliform Organisms of Faecal Origin Count per 100 ml.	Number of Samples
1.2	2	1.2	1
3.10	1	3.10	2
Greater than 10	2	Greater than 10	2
TOTAL ...	5	TOTAL ...	5

Housing

Of the many important tasks requiring the attention of local authorities, none are more urgent or more important than the provision of houses in as large number as possible.

On the 31st December, 1953, the Estates Department had a waiting list of 13,300 homeless families seeking to obtain housing accommodation. From these figures it would appear that a considerable time must elapse before the urgent requirements for housing accommodation are satisfied. Credit must be given to the Corporation, through its Estates and Housing Committees for providing a large number of dwelling houses since the commencement of Local Authority Housing Schemes. The Corporation has a number of sites where house building is proceeding, but it is worthy to record the completion of one site during the year. The site of the Annadale Flats consists of 9.33 acres, of which 5.4 acres were formerly in the ownership of the Corporation Improvements Committee and the remaining 3.93 acres were acquired by Vesting Order. The site occupies a commanding position on the East bank of the River Lagan and was formerly used as a brickworks which ceased to operate some forty years ago. When acquired by the Housing Committee the land presented an untidy and derelict appearance and a very considerable amount of excavation and grading was required to bring the site into a condition suitable for building development.

The expenditure on such extensive siteworks could only be justified by a scheme producing a large number of dwellings and this requirement had to be met by so arranging the layout as to provide a total of 202 flats. This has been achieved by building flats in three-storey blocks which give a density of 22 flats to the acre and at the same time allows the open character to be preserved in the development. The development of the site was governed by the green belt area alongside the Annadale Embankment and the River Lagan. Estate roads were planned to serve the site.

The three-storey blocks of flats consist of two types, varying according to the position of the living room which has been planned in all cases to have a southerly or westerly aspect. They consist of blocks of 12 or 18 flats, either as completely separate units or set back and linked to each other to form a composite block. Within the blocks a main entrance serves six flats with a staircase access serving two flats on each floor. The individual flats vary in respect of bedroom accommodation: those on the ground floor have two bedrooms, whilst the first and second floors have one two-bedroom and one three-bedroom flat respectively.

A large living room with an open fire and back boiler supplying individual water heating, a kitchen fitted with a storage cupboard unit and separate larder, a combined bathroom and water closet, fuel store and hot press is the general accommodation provided in each two or three bed-roomed flat. The kitchen has access to a small private balcony on which is fitted the refuse-disposal system. On the ground floor, adjacent to the rear entrance, there is a separate pram store for each flat; outside clothes drying facilities are also provided. The accommodation of the two-storey blocks of flats is similar in all respects to the three-storey block.

Mr. J. W. Adamson, A.R.I.B.A., DIP.T.P., A.M.T.P.I., the Housing Architect to the City of Belfast was responsible for the design and all works in connection with the scheme.

The total number of permanent dwelling houses completed and occupied during the year was 896: in addition, 432 self-contained flats were provided. Of this total, 696 dwelling houses and 372 flats were provided by the local authority, and 200 dwelling houses and 60 flats were provided by private enterprise. The reason given for such a decrease in the building of dwelling houses by private enterprise is that almost all the available building space within the City boundary has already been built upon.

At the 31st December, 1953, the total number of houses provided and owned by the Belfast Corporation since the commencement of Local Authority Housing Schemes was 5,488.

These premises are classified as follows:—

Permanent Houses	...	...	...	...	...	3,826
Temporary (Prefabricated) Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,000
Re-built "Blitzed" Houses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Temporary Converted (Hutted) Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	117
Flats	...	...	...	...	...	534

Speaking generally, nothing affords a better indication of a family's means than the kind of house in which they live, which would indicate that the quality of environment largely depends on the ability to pay an adequate rent. Hence, the poorest families are almost always to be found in the cheapest and worst type of old houses where rooms have been let to separate families.

Owing to the acute shortage of housing accommodation the above remarks do not apply to all occupants of these types of houses, more especially to parents who have young families and who are anxious to obtain a house in order to create a real home under more comfortable circumstances.

During the year bye-laws were drafted for the control of houses-let-in-lodgings and by direction of the Health Committee these have been forwarded to the Town Solicitor for his observations. Under the proposed bye-laws, a person would be prohibited from letting, except with the consent of the Corporation, a working-class type of house. Any consent of the Corporation may be given for a limited period and subject to such conditions as they think fit. The object is to enable the Corporation to require that a resident caretaker should reside in those houses let in lodgings where two or more families are lodged and in which the tenant does not himself reside.

In considering whether or not consent should be granted to applicants, consideration could be given to the need in particular cases for a resident caretaker, in the light of conditions found on inspection. In some cases consent could be granted, where it was evident that the houses were conducted satisfactorily, or where the proprietors live in close proximity to the lodging-houses and would be in a position to exercise constant personal supervision.

It is the intention to apply the bye-laws only to houses where families are accommodated for monetary gain by, or on behalf of, a chief tenant, owner or agent. Occupiers who have provided a home for friends on a temporary basis and parents whose married children live with them as one family, would be exempted from registration.

Many Statutory Notices under the Public Health Acts were served during the year on owners for structural defects and on occupiers of the house and rooms to impose a reasonable standard of cleanliness, but in the absence of bye-laws little can be done to improve the extremely bad conditions. Many instances of over-crowding and ill-health of inmates due to bad housing conditions have been brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health. In any such exceptional cases consideration should be given by the Estates Committee to his recommendations for re-housing.

During the year complaints were received from social workers, medical practitioners and occupants that nissen huts and temporary structures were damp, dilapidated and unfit for human habitation. These structures were converted to provide temporary emergency housing accommodation at the cessation of the Second World War. The huts have outlived their usefulness and the time has arrived when consideration should be given to re-housing the occupants as the huts are in such a state of dilapidation and a danger to public health.

During the year, 76 families occupying nissen huts were re-housed in permanent dwelling houses by the Local Authority. The huts were subsequently demolished.

Rent Restriction Law (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1951

The Act specifies the functions of the Local Sanitary Authorities in regard to the issue to tenants of certificates of disrepair and to landlords of reports as to the satisfactory completion of necessary repair works. Both landlord and tenant have the right of appeal to the County Court. A landlord's right relates to the reasonableness of the requirements of the Sanitary Authority with regard to works of repair. A tenant's right relates to the refusal of the Authority to grant a certificate. The following table shows the total number of applications received for certificates and reports and the number of certificates and reports issued and refused from 1st September, 1951 until 31st December, 1953:—

Total applications for certificates and reports	...	...	...	28,709
Total number of certificates issued to tenants	...	...	...	21,029
Total number of reports issued to landlords	...	...	...	4,499
Total number of certificates refused to tenants as the dwelling houses were found on inspection to be in "good and tenantable repair"	...	...	...	420
Total number of refusals of reports to landlords as all the works specified on certificates issued to tenants had not been completed	...	...	...	2,666

Applications for certificates and reports during 1953	...	...	4,576
Number of certificates issued to tenants during 1953	...	...	2,582
Number of reports issued to landlords during 1953 ...	...	...	1,184
Number of refusals of certificates to tenants during 1953	...	...	54
Number of refusals of reports to landlords during 1953	...	...	782

During the year it was found possible to carry out a survey of 8,818 dwelling houses in the City for which certificates of disrepair had been issued to tenants, and where no applications had been received from landlords for reports in connection with the same.

The following analysis shows the conditions existing at the time of inspection.

Conditions found on Inspection	DIVISIONS				
	North	South	East	West	Total
Number of Houses Inspected	2,247	1,139	2,986	2,446	8,818
Work satisfactorily completed	1,204	503	1,317	1,555	4,579
Work partly completed	929	619	1,564	797	3,909
No Work done	114	17	105	94	330
	2,247	1,139	2,986	2,446	8,818

In most cases listed above as “ Work part completed,” the work done consisted mainly of items of disrepair listed on the certificate issued to tenants, for which Statutory Notices under the Public Health Acts were issued by the Department for associated sanitary nuisances.

According to information obtained from the tenants at the time of inspection, the number of tenants “ paying ” or “ not paying ” the recent statutory increase of rent permitted under the Rent Restriction Law (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1951, was as follows:—

Conditions	Paying Increase	Not Paying Increase
Work completed	4,493	125
Work party completed	2,841	1,068
No work done	138	153
	7,472	1,346

Sanitary Section

That portion of the work of the Health Department connected with nuisances in and around dwellings and with property improvements can best be set out in tabular form.

The figures for the year in relation to these matters are as follows:—

Nature of Nuisances Complained of	DIVISIONS				
	North	South	East	West	Total
Drains, traps, etc., foul or defective ...	741	1,059	1,142	746	3,688
Piling, paving or flooring defective ...	994	1,087	1,401	995	4,477
Sinks defective or want of, waste pipes foul or defective ...	232	147	175	160	714
Water closets, foul or defective, no water closet accommodation, soil and ventilation pipes defective or want of ...	1,120	1,176	1,353	1,446	5,095
Ashbins defective or want of ...	94	120	105	130	449
Roofs defective ...	1,862	2,069	2,345	2,204	8,480
Spoutings defective or want of ...	1,246	1,156	1,209	1,220	4,831
Damp state ...	2,211	2,986	3,285	2,730	11,212
Plaster of walls or ceilings defective ...	842	1,268	1,187	1,101	4,398
Domestic water supply, want of or unsuitable ...	17	18	10	21	66
Light or ventilation insufficient or want of...	36	161	77	188	462
Schools overcrowded ...	4	13	21	17	55
Dwelling houses overcrowded ...	—	2	11	2	15
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter, offensive smells, premises or passages dirty ...	117	290	492	154	1,053
Fowl or animals kept so as to be a nuisance...	1	7	14	2	24
Schools Dirty ...	—	—	1	5	6
Miscellaneous ...	2,153	1,897	1,519	2,398	7,967
GRAND TOTAL ...					52,992

Nuisances Abated

Nature of Nuisances Abated	DIVISIONS				
	North	South	East	West	Total
House drains cleansed ...	635	740	782	466	2,623
House drains repaired ...	71	193	111	60	435
Length in feet of drain pipes laid ...	8	57	243	18	326
Houses had tiling, paving, flooring, etc., repaired	941	1,428	1,332	971	4,672
Houses had water closets cleansed or repaired ...	1,078	1,128	1,104	1,142	4,452
Number of ashbins provided ...	111	119	98	96	424
Houses had the roofs repaired ...	2,150	2,624	2,309	2,622	9,705
Houses had the spoutings repaired ...	1,867	1,408	1,225	1,795	6,295
Passages cleansed ...	11	35	28	8	82
Houses cleansed ...	9	28	20	2	59
Houses had minor repairs effected ...	3,096	3,282	1,851	3,310	11,539
Miscellaneous nuisances abated ...	100	143	108	66	417
GRAND TOTAL ...					41,029

Summary

Number of sanitary complaints received and discovered during the year ...	52,992
Number of inspections carried out in respect of nuisances during the year ...	117,877
Number of Statutory Notices issued during the year ...	23,544
Number of sanitary improvements carried out during the year ...	41,029

Bye-Laws made under Section 23 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, relating to keeping Water Closets supplied with sufficient water for flushing

Where in any premises in the City in or upon which water closets are provided any such water closet is without a supply of water sufficient for flushing purposes, the Council may serve notice on the owner of the premises requiring him within not less than twenty-four hours to provide such sufficient supply of water ; if he fails to comply with the notice, he shall be guilty of an offence under the Bye-Laws. It shall be a good defence if the owner can show (a) the supply was cut off by reason of the default of the occupier in making payment of the water rate, or (b) the carrying out of urgent repairs which rendered necessary the cutting off of the water supply and such repairs were carried out and the water supply restored as soon as practicable.

Where the failure to provide a sufficient supply of water is due to the cutting off of the supply by reason of the default of the occupier in making payment of the water rate, the notice shall be served upon the occupier, and if the occupier fail to comply with the requirements thereof, he shall be guilty of an offence under the Bye-Laws.

Total number of inspections carried out during the year	...	...	951
Total number of notices issued under the bye-laws during the year	...	...	731
Total number of summonses issued during the year	...	...	79

Keeping of Animals

Stabling yards within the City were systematically inspected by Sanitary Officers during the year, constant attention being paid to the frequency of removal of manure, which, owing to its open texture is well suited to fly larvae. General sanitation, including impervious paving of stables and yards, drainage, cleanliness and ventilation were enforced.

Total number of stables on register	...	...	247
Total number of inspections carried out during the year	...	...	2,171

In regard to the keeping of swine, many complaints of nuisances were received, the most common being offensive smells, accumulations of decomposing foods and discharge of black smoke from food cooking boilers. The Health Committee approved bye-laws for the regulation of the keeping of swine to replace the existing bye-laws. The proposed bye-laws were framed to deal with present day problems but did not obtain the requisite approval of the Corporation.

During the year, a case was stated by the Belfast Recorder at the instance of Belfast Corporation, as to the grounds on which he reversed the decision of the Resident Magistrate who imposed a penalty for keeping pigs too near a dwelling house. The dispute arose as to the point from which measurements could be taken to determine 15 feet distance from a dwelling house (this being the distance at which pigs could be kept under the bye-laws), whether from the main rear wall of the dwelling house or the yard wall outside which the pigs were kept. The Resident Magistrate held that the measurement began at the yard wall. The pig keeper submitted that the measurement began at the house wall : this was upheld by the Recorder and by the Judges in the Court of Appeal.

Total number of piggeries on register	...	...	103
Total number of inspections carried out during the year	...	...	1,815
Number of applications for registration received during the year	...	...	12
Number of piggeries registered during the year	...	...	3
Number of registrations revoked during the year	...	...	4
Number of registrations refused as premises did not comply with regulations for the keeping of swine	...	...	9

Burial Grounds

Under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, visits and inspections of burial grounds were made by Sanitary Officers for the protection of the public health and the maintenance of public decency.

Total number of burial grounds in the City	...	...	10
Total number of inspections carried out by Sanitary Officers	...	...	142

In addition, five exhumations and re-interments took place at different cemeteries within the City in accordance with licences issued by the Ministry of Health and Local Government. In all cases the exhumation was conducted with proper regard for public health and decency. During the year the remains of an adult were exhumed at Dundonald Cemetery and re-interred in Londonderry and the remains of a child were exhumed at City Cemetery and re-interred in Carrickfergus. Before the remains were allowed to be transported by road, the original casket was enclosed within a metal lined new casket under the supervision of the Sanitary Officer.

Construction of avenues and paths and of boundary fencing to the new cemetery to be called "Roselawn" at Crossnacreevy is nearing completion and considerable progress has been made in the small sewage purification works connected with the scheme.

Offensive Trades

These businesses require careful and regular supervision largely because of their nature and the offensive condition of the raw materials used. There are seventeen such businesses in the City which are registered as offensive trades, consisting of five hide and skin merchants, one fat melter, hide and skin merchant, three soap boilers, two bone boilers, three gut scrapers and three tripe boilers.

The bye-laws for registration of these trades require the prevention of offensive effluvia, the inoffensive disposal of obnoxious waste, the limewashing of ceilings and walls, the cleansing of floors and utensils, thorough flushing of the drains and the maintenance of the premises in good order and repair.

During the year, sixteen complaints were received by the Department concerning offensive smells. In each case the manufacturing process was improved by altered methods in order to eliminate the nuisance complained of (Rag and Bone Dealers are dealt with under the heading Marine Stores).

Total number of inspections carried out during the year	180
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Atmospheric Pollution

Atmospheric pollution is a problem which affects every citizen. Although it is not possible to measure with accuracy the actual cost arising from it, many estimates have been made. Apart from the material costs or losses due to smoke, there are the inestimable considerations of injury to health, the loss of sunlight and the depressing effects of poor lighting conditions brought about by palls of smoke. Smoke is unnecessary waste, and an excessive discharge of smoke from a chimney denotes a great loss of valuable fuel. The inefficient combustion of fuel releases into the air carbon and tar which should be consumed in the furnace or fireplace. The large quantities of soot that are discharged into the air of a City bring about squalor and dinginess. Fog in the country is a natural phenomenon that does little harm, but in a City, where it may get saturated with smoke that cannot get away, it can cause loss of life. The severe fog and sharp increase in the death rate in London during December, 1952, drew attention to the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke.

During the year, the Medical Officer of Health recommended and the Health Committee authorised the purchase of equipment which will enable the conditions of the air in Belfast to be compared with other Cities. The equipment has been supplied and a Deposit Gauge and Lead-Peroxide Gauge erected at seven different parts of the City. The instruments commenced recordings on 1st January, 1954.

There are approximately 282 factory chimneys in the City. Smoke observations are still carried out by Sanitary Officers having other duties to perform. The primary object of the Department in carrying out such observations of industrial chimneys is to reduce, if possible, the degree of atmospheric pollution consistent with the considerations of fuel economy and efficiency. All complaints of smoke nuisance were investigated at once, in addition to routine observations being kept on chimneys throughout the City.

659 visual timed observations were carried out, and in 14 cases black smoke was emitted for 2 minutes or more in the aggregate in a continuous period of 30 minutes. In each case the premises were visited for the purpose of effecting improvements in the methods of solid fuel firing with a view to minimising smoke emission. Further observations necessitated the serving of 6 Statutory

Notices and 8 Intimation Notices ; in some instances improvements were carried out; others were pending at the end of the year.

With the advent of cold weather, there was the usual increase in atmospheric pollution by smoke from very low chimneys of small workshops, garages, etc. Raising the heights of chimneys or conversion to smokeless fuels has resulted in abatement of the nuisances complained of.

It is estimated that smoke causes approximately fifty per cent. of the total amount of atmospheric pollution. There are over 111,000 dwelling houses in the City and the light smoke from each of the many thousands of open fires burning raw coal forming dense clouds of pollution over built up areas drift together and join up with pollution from other sources to form a haze over the City, which is noticeable, not only in the immediate vicinity, but from any high ground on the outskirts of the City.

The continued increase in the use of gas and electricity is reducing the smoke nuisance from domestic chimneys, and the provision of smokeless solid fuel appliances in new houses would prevent any increased pollution due to building development.

Cinemas and Theatres

Total number in City	...	...	...	...	...	44
Total number of inspections (including evening inspections)	...	...	...	...	...	622

The systematic inspection of cinemas and theatres was continued throughout the year. These visits were to ensure the satisfactory cleansing of the auditorium, seats, staff rooms and sanitary conveniences and the maintenance of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences for the use of the patrons and staff.

In addition to day-time inspections, 132 special inspections were made during the evening performances to check the efficiency of ventilation and heating systems by tests using the Kata Thermometer and a Hygrometer. In 24 cinemas unsatisfactory results were recorded at different times during the year. Investigations proved that the best use was not being made of the ventilating system provided. The defects were observed and brought to the attention of the persons concerned and in some instances were remedied without delay ; others required structural alterations and changes in plant.

Dance Halls, Etc.

There are 65 premises licensed for public dancing, singing, music, boxing and other public entertainment of a like nature, under Section 31 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1934. In addition, there are approximately 156 premises where entertainment is carried on. Admission to these premises is by membership card.

The following is a summary of defective conditions found in licensed and private dance halls inspected during the year:—

Particulars of Defects Found	Notices	Number of Defects	Remedied	Outstanding at end of year
Insufficient ventilation	3	3	3	—
Dirty and defective conditions	3	3	3	—
Other defects	6	10	10	—
Sanitary Accommodation				
Sanitary conveniences not provided with proper intervening ventilated space	16	19	11	8
Sanitary accommodation not provided for each sex	3	3	3	—
Sanitary conveniences not properly screened	4	7	5	2
Sanitary conveniences not properly lighted	2	3	1	2
Sanitary conveniences not properly ventilated	3	5	4	1
Sanitary conveniences in a dirty state	2	3	3	—
Sanitary conveniences in a defective condition	6	9	3	6
Insufficient urinal accommodation	2	3	2	1
Urinals in a defective and dirty state	4	6	5	1
Total	54	74	53	21

Statutory Notices under Section 73 of the Belfast Improvement Act, 1878, as extended by Section 69, Belfast Corporation Act, 1911, were served on occupiers for the above defects, most of which were remedied at the end of the year.

Inspection of Primary and Secondary Schools

A comprehensive report was prepared and submitted to the Health Committee and later forwarded to the Director of Education regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the sanitary accommodation, consisting of trough closets or insufficient sanitary conveniences, provided at several schools under the control of the Education Authority. The Medical Officer of Health attended a meeting of the Education Committee and stressed the importance from a health point of view of the abolition of trough closets and the installation of modern pedestal wash-down water closets, each provided with a flushing cistern.

The Director subsequently submitted a report to the Education Committee on sanitary accommodation in schools. The report set out in detail the enrolment of the schools, the enrolment under the Committee's development scheme and the number of pupils for whom existing sanitary accommodation was adequate under the recommendations issued by the Ministry of Education. It was pointed out that the number of pupils in certain schools would be reduced in the near future, owing to the transfer of senior pupils to the New Intermediate Schools now being erected, that Springfield Primary School was to be extended and that a considerable number of the older schools were to be closed. The report recommended that the sanitary accommodation at Sandy Row Primary School be modernised on the basis of provision for 105 pupils and that the Education Architect be authorised to prepare specifications for additional urinal accommodation at Belmont and Rosetta Primary Schools and Oakleigh Special School.

Representation was also made for the provision of hot water laid on to wash-hand basins for washing facilities for the pupils. It was pointed out that the Regulations issued by the Ministry of Education require the provision of hot water in schools. The Medical Officer of Health is strongly in favour of such provision from a hygienic point of view. This is particularly applicable in intermediate schools where pupils handle tools and materials in the course of their studies. It is also most desirable where school meals are provided.

Bacteriological examination showed that water samples obtained from the supply pipe at Graymount Open Air School were unsatisfactory. The supply was obtained from a spring on rising ground and was piped for a considerable distance to the school. Representation was made to the Director of Education and during the year a wholesome water supply was provided direct from the Water Commissioners' mains at a cost of £265.

During the year Sanitary Officers carried out routine inspections of all schools under the control of the Belfast Education Committee and also voluntary schools under management control, for the purpose of detecting sanitary defects and overcrowding. Many defects were brought to the notice of those concerned and remedial measures carried out. Under the Local Building Bye-Laws the plans for six new schools were approved by the City Surveyor's Department.

Number of County Primary and Secondary Schools	...	...	113
Number of Voluntary Schools	...	...	69
Number of Special and Nursery Schools	...	...	14
Number of inspections carried out by Sanitary Officers during the year	...	...	756
Number of complaints, received from School Health Division, investigated	...	...	40
Number of defects discovered by Sanitary Officers	...	...	49
Number of intimations concerning defects sent to Director of Education	...	...	43
Number of intimations concerning defects sent to Managers, etc	...	...	25
Number of sanitary improvements carried out to school buildings	...	...	17

Public Sanitary Conveniences

There are 126 public sanitary conveniences throughout the City (including those in Public Parks and Playgrounds). 81 are provided for males and 45 for females. Some of the conveniences are of modern design and some are of the old cast-iron structure type of street urinal. The City Surveyor, realising the necessity for the abolition of unsightly and in some cases obstructive cast-iron structures, has during the year, carried out the following works:—Modern conveniences have been completed and opened to the public at Grosvenor Road, Diamond Street, Shankill Road and at the corner of Ravenhill Road and Albertbridge Road. Work is also proceeding on public conveniences at Smithfield Square West and Templemore Avenue and preliminary plans have been prepared for conveniences to be erected at Ardoyne. On Whiterock Road a street urinal has been replaced by a permanent male lavatory and plans have been prepared for the replacement of similar urinals on Falls Road and Great Patrick Street by permanent structures.

Number of inspections carried out by Sanitary Officers with regard to cleanliness : 1,186

Drain Tests

During the year 508 drain tests were carried out (including tests made by Pests Control Officers and Factories and Shops Inspectors). 266 tests were in connection with complaints of nuisances arising from the ingress of rats into premises. 176 drains showed defects by smoke machine tests ; 113 of this number showed defects on complaint of rats and the remaining 63 on complaint of offensive odours and other causes. A Statutory Notice under the Public Health Acts was served on the owner in each case where defects were discovered and repairs were subsequently carried out. New drains laid in place of those found to be defective were tested by the water test. Supervision of drainage systems connected to septic tanks was carried out by Sanitary Officers at isolated premises on the outskirts of the City where there was no public sewer in the vicinity. Great care had to be exercised to prevent any nuisance arising therefrom.

Number of House drains completely re-laid	...	...	...	43
Number of House drains repaired	...	...	...	435

Provision of Ashbins

Under Section 44 of the Belfast Corporation Act, 1930, the Corporation may, by notice in writing, require the owner or occupier of any dwelling-house, warehouse or shop, from which the Corporation undertake, or may be required, to remove any house or trade refuse, to provide and maintain in good order and condition dustbins for the convenient removal of such refuse and such dustbins shall be of such size and construction as may be approved by the Corporation.

Number of notices served under the above section	...	...	...	277
Number of summonses for non-compliance with notice	...	...	...	10
Number of ashbins provided during the year	...	...	...	424

Planning and Housing Act (Northern Ireland), 1931

During the year the Medical Officer of Health reported to the Health Committee five dwelling houses as unfit for human habitation and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit, under Section 29 of the Act. Representation was subsequently made to the Council for Demolition Orders, as the dwelling houses had become dangerous structurally and on public health grounds. The Council made demolition orders or accepted undertakings that the existence of the houses would not be dangerous or injurious to the health of the public or of the inhabitants of neighbouring dwelling-houses.

In determining whether a dwelling-house can be rendered fit for human habitation at a reasonable expense, regard shall be had to the estimated cost of the works necessary to render it so fit and the value which it is estimated the dwelling house will have when the works are completed. The Council take as a guide a ratio between the estimated cost of the work and the value which it is estimated the house would have after completion of repairs.

Marine Stores

There are 113 persons licensed as general dealers in the City under the General Dealers (Ireland) Act, 1903. Of this number, 39 are rag merchants who carry on the business or trade of sorting, teasing and grading of rags, etc.

From a public health aspect it is important that such trades should receive special attention, as most of the articles collected are salvaged and again used.

During the year a special survey of rag merchants' premises was carried out by the Sanitary Staff. This survey revealed that the greater number of premises used for this purpose were defective, and in a number of cases, completely unsuitable for the carrying out of this particular type of trade. Statutory Notices under the Health Acts and Bye-Laws with respect to offensive trades in rags, bones, etc., were served on occupiers resulting in a considerable amount of structural work being carried out in the premises. Five rag merchants' premises were discovered to be so structurally defective that it was found necessary to cease using them for that purpose. Two new buildings were erected during the year for the business of rag sorting and storage.

It is noteworthy to record that during the course of inspections it was discovered that a practice carried on in former years, that of collecting used glass jam jars and bottles of all descriptions from such places as refuse tipping grounds, ashbins and dwelling houses to be again used as food containers had almost ceased. Only certain types of wine bottles are now collected for re-use. During the year complaints were received and investigated that baled rags infested with vermin were being shipped from Belfast to England. Negotiations were opened by the Department with rag merchants to have the premises disinfested at regular intervals.

The following table shows a summary of inspections carried out and action taken by the Sanitary Department to abate the nuisances discovered.

Number of Marine Stores in City	...	...	...	39
Number of inspections carried out during the year	...	...	...	640

Structural Defects Discovered	Reported	Statutory Notices issued	Remedied	Outstanding at end of year
Rooms not enclosed or provided with a proper roof	26	25	14	15
Rooms not properly lighted	18	18	14	4
Rooms not properly ventilated	17	14	15	2
Rooms not provided with suitable floor	9	8	7	2
Materials so stored as to obstruct lighting or ventilation	7	6	2	5
Dustbins not provided or trade refuse not removed weekly	3	3	2	1
Premises not kept in a clean state	7	6	6	1
Walls, ceilings, partitions, etc., requiring re-decoration	24	16	20	4
Premises, apparatus, utensils not kept in a state of repair	21	16	12	7
Yards, loading bays, etc., not properly surfaced or drained	2	2	2	—
Other defects	30	20	10	20
Total	164	134	104	61

Rivers

Loop River

During the year there was a complete stoppage in a large sewer owned by the Castlereagh Rural District Council, with the result that all sewage from this pipe discharged direct into the river via an overflow intended to divert storm water. On investigating the complaint, it was found that manhole covers to the sewer had been broken maliciously and dropped into the sewer causing the stoppage. The sewer and river in the vicinity of the overflow were cleansed and heavy manhole covers fitted to prevent any recurrence of the nuisance.

Complaints were received that milk washings from a large dairy situated outside the City Boundary were being discharged direct into the river. Representations were made to the City Surveyor and to the Rural District Council concerned for the conversion of the drainage system so that any discharge will be direct into the public sewer.

Glenwood River

Representations were made to have a portion of this river adjoining Jamaica Street and Etna Drive from Brompton Park to Alliance Avenue culverted on the ground that it is continuously used by the inhabitants of the district for the dumping of all kinds of discarded articles, e.g. old tins and oil drums, bedsteads, wire bed springs, mattresses, discarded household utensils, cardboard containers, pieces of old sacking, etc. These are frequently removed so as to prevent pollution.

Connswater River

Work on this Improvement Scheme, which commenced last year, proceeded and the temporary dam to prevent entry of the tide has been completed. Portion of the concrete invert and pitching of the new channel has been constructed and preliminary work has commenced on the construction of the culvert.

High Street River

Crude sewage was found discharging into the river from a storm overflow due to a temporary blockage in the sewer. Sewage found access into a large mill dam and caused a serious nuisance. The dam was treated as a temporary measure and during the summer holidays drained off and cleansed.

Clowney River

The flow of water was temporarily stopped by the deposit of solid matter in the bed of the river. This was subsequently removed and the river cleansed by the City Surveyor's Department.

Farset River

Part of this river flows through vacant ground where all kinds of rubbish is deposited ; much of the debris was maliciously thrown into the river and entails continuous cleansing. Representation was made to the Belfast Education Authority who are the owners of the ground to culvert this portion of the river and enclose the ground by a fence.

During the year the remaining open portion of Glentoran Stream was piped. This stream is now piped for a considerable distance and discharges direct into the River Lagan.

Blackstaff River

During the year samples of river water were obtained by Sanitary Officers for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. A number of samples were taken adjacent to the discharge pipe where treated effluent from the Belfast Rural District Council's Sewage Disposal Works at Andersonstown enters the river.

The results of bacteriological examination are classified as follows:—

Sample Number	Date of Sample	Location where sample was taken from river	Observations of Bacteriologist
50800	8-4-1953	Adjacent to outlet from sewage purification works	Contained very large numbers of cl. welchii amounting to more than 1,000 per ml. Intestinal pathogens were not isolated
50801	8-4-1953	Boundary at rear of Malone Training School	Containing more than 1,000 cl. welchii per ml. Intestinal pathogens were not isolated
2609	4-6-1953	Boundary at rear of Malone Training School	More than 180 coliform organisms of faecal origin per 100 ml. No salmonella isolated
2610	4-6-1953	Adjacent to outlet from sewage purification works	More than 180 coliform organisms of faecal origin per 100 ml. No salmonella isolated
2	8-7-1953	Boundary at rear of Malone Training School	More than 180 coliform organisms and of these 160 were of faecal origin
1	8-7-1953	Adjacent to outlet from sewage purification works	More than 180 faecal coli. per 100 ml.
1	7-8-1953	Adjacent to outlet from sewage purification works	More than 180 coliform organisms of faecal origin per 100 ml. 50 cl. welchii colonies. No intestinal pathogens isolated
2	7-8-1953	Boundary at rear of Malone Training School	More than 180 coliform organisms of faecal origin per 100 ml. 100 cl. welchii colonies. No intestinal pathogens
6365	14-11-1953	Boundary at rear of Malone Training School	50 coliform organisms of faecal origin per 100 ml. 40 cl. welchii per 100 ml.
6366	14-11-1953	Adjacent to outlet from sewage purification works	40 coliform organisms of faecal origin per 100 ml. 45 cl. welchii per 100 ml.

The results of bacteriological examination show a small improvement over the year. The Public Analyst, reporting on the chemical analysis, states that the results in general show the purification of the sewage is proceeding. The condition reached does not attain the desired standard either as regard loss of dissolved oxygen in the five day test or suspended solids.

During the year a complaint was made by the Department to the Lisburn Rural District Council that a storm overflow was discharging sewage into the river and it was agreed to raise the levels of the weirs on the storm overflow. This was subsequently carried out and the behaviour of the weirs is being kept under observation. It was also discovered that a number of house drains were inadvertently discharging into the storm overflow. This was rectified and may have been the cause of the trouble.

A preliminary scheme and estimate for the control of flooding of the Blackstaff River were prepared early in the year and are at present under consideration by the authorities concerned.

Total number of Rivers in City	...	...	...	...	19
Total number of inspections carried out	...	...	...	...	676

Hairdressers and Barbers Premises

Routine inspections of these premises were carried out during the year by Sanitary Officers in order to ascertain that the premises were registered, and that Bye-Laws made under the Hairdressers Act (Northern Ireland) 1939 were being complied with.

The Bye-Laws are designed to deal with (1) the suitability and adequacy of premises (2) the cleanliness and repair of all walls, ceilings, partitions, floors, etc. (3) a sufficient number of covered receptacles for the storage of all hair clippings and other litter (4) the cleanliness of chairs, wash-basins and other fittings (5) the cleanliness of all instruments and equipment used in the business (6) the personal cleanliness of every person engaged in the trade or business and (7) the prevention of animals on the premises.

It was found necessary in one instance, after repeated warnings, to institute legal proceedings against an offender carrying on business in unregistered premises. These premises were subsequently registered and the proceedings withdrawn by consent of the Magistrate.

In other instances cautions were issued for breaches of the Bye-Laws and the necessary remedial measures were taken to obviate a recurrence which were of a minor character.

Total number of inspections of registered premises	...	...	...	2,602
Total number of premises on register at 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	428
Number of premises registered during 1953	...	...	...	28
Number of premises deleted from register during 1953	...	...	...	53
Total number of premises on register as at 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	403

Common Lodging Houses

Common Lodging Houses in Belfast are now subject to dual control under the Public Health and Local Government (Transfer of Functions) Statutory Rules and Orders 1947. The provision and maintenance of sanitary accommodation come under the control of the Health Authority, whilst the registration and enforcement of Bye-Laws come under the control of the Welfare Committee.

At the end of the year there were eight registered common lodging houses in the City, affording nightly accommodation for nine hundred and forty-three males. No accommodation is provided for females. One common lodging house is maintained by the Corporation and another by the Salvation Army; these establishments maintain a higher standard of equipment and amenities for lodgers than most of the privately run premises.

Where nuisances were discovered by Sanitary Officers at the time of inspection, verbal notice was given to the keeper. In cases of persistent offenders, Statutory Notices were served on the occupiers and remedial measures carried out.

Number of inspections carried out by Sanitary Officers	24
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Report on the Administration of the Factories Acts (Northern Ireland) 1938 and 1949

The Factories Section of the Sanitary Branch of the Health Department deals with all those matters in the Factories Acts (Northern Ireland), 1938 and 1949, which are the responsibility of the Local Authority, with the exception of the provision of means of escape in case of fire. This is dealt with by the Building Inspectors' Section of the City Surveyor's Department.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Factories continued to notify the Local Authority of any matters under their jurisdiction which have come to his notice, and in all, 61 such notices were received about insanitary conditions. These received attention and the action taken was reported to Her Majesty's Inspector as required by the Act. In 51 factories where Sanitary Officers discovered that abstract notices, etc., were not exhibited, Her Majesty's Inspector was notified. Inspections were also carried out under the Public Health Acts and Bye-Laws of dance-halls, offices, meeting places, rag and bone dealers, marine stores, work places and premises not included under the Factories Act.

It is with pleasure I again record that good relations continued to exist throughout the year among Sanitary Officers, Factory management and Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories.

PART 1: INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health carried out by Sanitary Officers

PREMISES (1)	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections (2)	Statutory Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	2,651	162	12
Factories without mechanical power	545	44	2
*Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	315	64	3
(*Electrical stations reckoned as factories)			
TOTAL ...	3,511	270	17

PART 2 : DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			Number of defects in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted (5)	Defects outstanding at end of year (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to Chief Factories Inspector (4)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	18	13	1	1	5
Overcrowding (S.2)	4	4	1	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2	—	2	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	16	10	2	—	4
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :					
Insufficient	25	22	—	6	3
Unsuitable or defective	390	316	—	12	99
Not separate for sexes	13	12	—	3	1
Other offences (excluding offences relating to homework which is included in Part 3 of this report)	158	126	44	6	32
Breaches of special sanitary regulations for bakehouses (S.56 to 59)	4	4	1	—	—
TOTAL ...	632	509	51	28	144

Inspections of Factories carried out under the Public Health Acts

Number of nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	114
Number of written notices served	...	...	...	...	72
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	86

PART 3: HOMEWORK

NATURE OF WORK (1)	Number of inspections of outworkers' premises (2)	Outwork in unwholesome premises (Section 115)			Outwork in infected premises (Sections 116 and 117)		
		Instances (3)	Statutory Notices Served (4)	Prosecutions (5)	Instances (6)	Orders made (Section 117) (7)	Prosecutions (Sections 116 & 117) (8)
1. Making, cleaning, washing, altering, ornamenting, finishing and repairing of wearing apparel ...	83	1	1	—	—	—	—
2. Making-up, ornamenting, finishing and repairing of table linen, bed linen or other household linen (including in the term 'linen' articles of cotton and linen mixtures) ...	440	6	3	—	3	1	—
3. Textile weaving and any process incidental thereto	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	525	7	4	—	3	1	—

The employment of outworkers in specified classes of work is supervised by Sanitary Officers operating under the relevant provisions in the Factories Act and the Public Health Acts. These provisions relate to the employment of persons in unwholesome premises and to the prevention of the spread of infectious disease by articles handled by factory outworkers.

During the year Belfast factory proprietors notified the Health Department of 932 outworkers employed outside their premises ; of this number 417 were residing in districts outside the City Boundary. Notification of such employment was circulated to the various local authorities concerned.

Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses on register ...	...	...	...	326
Number of inspections made during the year	...	...	...	711

Summary of Defects Discovered on Inspection	Defects Reported	Statutory Notices Issued	Defects Remedied	Defects Outstanding
Want of cleanliness in food rooms ...	12	10	9	3
Overcrowding ...	2	1	2	1
Unreasonable temperature (ventilation inadequate or not maintained) ...	17	7	8	10
Inadequate provision for rendering fumes harmless, etc. ...	13	8	8	5
Inadequate provision for drainage of floors ...	2	—	2	—
Drain inlets within food rooms ...	9	6	6	6
Sanitary conveniences communicating directly with food room ...	2	1	1	1
Ceilings, walls, floors, windows, doors, etc., in disrepair ...	57	34	36	28
Ceilings, walls, floors, windows, doors, etc., requiring cleansing ...	68	27	42	31
Preparation or cooking rooms structurally defective ...	27	16	11	16
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities not provided ...	22	12	15	9
No suitable cloakroom accommodation provided ...	23	14	18	8
Cleanliness of utensils, machinery, benches, etc., not observed ...	6	4	4	3
Cleanliness of persons handling foodstuffs not observed ...	4	2	4	—
Other offences ...	54	23	15	38
TOTAL ...	318	165	181	159

The defects remedied include 20 outstanding defects from the previous year.

In addition to the issue of statutory notices, 104 letters were sent to occupiers of bakehouses requesting structural works to be carried out in order to put the premises into compliance with the Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948. A considerable amount of re-construction work was in progress at the end of the year; in addition twelve new bakeries were opened. Certain structural works in connection with these new premises was supervised by the Department's Factory Inspectors.

Prosecutions for Offences in Bakehouses

Legal proceedings were instituted against two occupiers for having in their possession for the purpose of preparation for sale for human consumption, food which was found to be unsound, unwholesome and unfit for the food of man.

Insanitary Bakehouses

Three bakehouses were found to be in such a state structurally as to be unfit for use or occupation for the preparation of food, and on representation from the Department the premises ceased to be used for this purpose.

Bread Delivery Vans

The inspection with regard to cleanliness of vehicles in which bread is conveyed has been maintained during the year. Three firms were sent letters of warning where after inspection a number of bread delivery vans were found to be in a dirty state. Where unhygienic methods of delivery were discovered, the offenders were warned. In a number of large bakeries a regular system of cleansing and re-painting of vehicles has been set up with marked results; machinery has also been installed for the washing and cleansing of bread boards, etc.

Report on Office Accommodation inspected during the year

The survey of office accommodation continued throughout the year and the attached analysis of conditions found are the results of visits made by Sanitary Officers in the normal course of their duties. As previously reported, the Public Health Acts, which provide the existing legislation dealing with offices, do not require full welfare facilities such as heating, personal washing, facilities for the taking of meals, etc., which have been provided for workers in other sections of industry and commerce.

Consequently, the majority of office workers are at a disadvantage with their colleagues in factories and shop premises. It is to be hoped that suitable legislation will be introduced to improve the above unsatisfactory conditions.

Number of office buildings inspected	...	...	...	...	46
Number of suites of offices inspected	...	...	...	...	117

CONDITIONS DISCOVERED ON INSPECTION	DEFECTS		
	Reported	Remedied	Outstanding
Offices dirty	7	5	2
Passages and stairways dirty	10	5	5
Offices overcrowded	1	1	—
Offices inadequately lighted, ventilated or heated	18	17	1
Offices with no washing facilities	3	3	—
Offices not kept free from noxious effluvia	6	5	1
Offices in a damp or defective state	21	20	1
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION			
Separate not provided for sexes	7	6	1
Insufficient	3	2	1
Ventilation or lighting inadequate	3	2	1
Floors, walls, basins, seats, cisterns, etc., defective or dirty	40	24	16
Screenings, doors, fasteners, etc., absent or defective	3	3	—
Absence of intervening ventilated space	1	—	1
Separate means of approach not provided	2	1	1
TOTAL	125	94	31

Medicines, Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Northern Ireland), 1945

Number of persons on register	...	...	...	...	28
Number of inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	36
Number of licences granted by Health Authority during the year	...	...	...	...	28

The Sanitary Officers are concerned with the investigation of applications for licences, inspection of records, labelling and storage requirements and sales by persons not holding a licence. It was found necessary to caution five retailers for infringements of the Regulations ; on subsequent visits to the premises concerned it was found that the requirements of the Act and Regulations made thereunder were being observed.

During the year, one firm was discovered to be selling horticultural poisons in unlicensed premises. After repeated warnings the complaint was referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs (Northern Ireland) for their consideration and necessary action. A licence was subsequently applied for by the firm concerned and granted by the Health Authority.

Rag Flock Act, 1911

Number of premises on register where rag flock is used	...	...	...	...	68
Number of inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	75
Number of samples of rag flock submitted to public analyst	...	...	...	...	28
Number of samples certified as not being in accordance with the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912	...	...	...	...	2
Number of cautionary letters sent to offenders	...	...	...	...	2
Number of prosecutions instituted	...	...	...	...	—

Again I must record that the Rag Flock Act, 1911 and Rag Flock (Ireland) Regulations, 1912, are out of date and inadequate to deal with the present conditions in the upholstery trade. Feathers, hair, fibre, rag cuttings, etc., continue to be used for the filling of bedding, children's toys and upholstery work, for which no standard of cleanliness is provided under existing legislation. In Great Britain the failure of the above Act was recognised and the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951 was introduced and covers all the above materials. Similar legislation is required in Northern Ireland.

During the year inspectors discovered two firms using flock from old discarded mattresses for re-upholstery work. As existing legislation makes no provision for prohibiting such practices, no action could be taken by the Department.

Shops Act (Northern Ireland), 1946

The duties of Sanitary Officers under Section 22 of the Act are concerned chiefly with the health and welfare of persons employed in shops.

Ventilation and temperature are the concern of the sanitary authority. The Act states that (a) in all shops there shall be provided suitable and sufficient means of ventilation which shall be maintained in a suitable and sufficient degree ; (b) suitable and sufficient means shall be provided to maintain a reasonable temperature and a reasonable temperature shall be maintained. It is easy enough to treat the enclosed shop on its merits in seeing that ventilation and temperature is satisfactory : the real difficulty arises in dealing with the open-fronted shops, such as fishmongers and greengrocers.

Suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences and washing facilities must be provided and maintained in every shop for the use of the persons employed. No standard is laid down, but the Factories Act provides a useful guide. The requirements of the Act are additional to and not in substitution for those of the Public Health Acts and other Regulations. A shop may be exempted from these requirements by certificate from the Sanitary Authority, but only where the Authority is satisfied as to two specified conditions, namely, that by reason of restricted accommodation or other special circumstances affecting the shop it is reasonable that a certificate should be in force and that suitable and sufficient facilities are otherwise conveniently available. The intention is to secure the maximum purpose of the Act wherever possible and to concede exemption only where that end is manifestly impossible.

In every part of a shop in which persons are employed, suitable and sufficient means of lighting are required to be provided and maintained. A conscientious approach to this provision of the Act has been made by Inspectors and much has been done since the introduction of the Act to enforce these provisions.

Where assistants take any meals on the shop premises, suitable and sufficient facilities for cooking must be provided and maintained. Many of the larger shops are provided with a staff canteen. The facilities provided should be separate from the actual shop. This room should be clean, well lighted and ventilated and, in cold weather, kept at a resonable temperature. Likewise, reasonable comfort should be provided by the provision of chairs and a table, means of heating water, and possibly food, also facilities for washing up.

In addition, inspections are carried out under the Public Health Acts, Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations and Byelaws.

Report of the Administration of Section 22 in connection with the Provisions of the Health and Welfare of persons employed in Shops

PART 1

Number of shops on the register	...	...	...	5,410
Number of complete surveys made during the year	...	...	...	1,740
Number of inspections made during the year	...	...	...	5,011
Number of contraventions of the Act discovered during the year	...	...	...	1,255
Number of Statutory Notices served for defects during the year	...	...	...	626
Number of exemption certificates issued with respect to alternative sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	27
Number of exemption certificates issued with respect to alternative washing facilities	...	...	...	19

PART 2—DEFECTS DISCOVERED

CONDITIONS FOUND ON INSPECTION	DEFECTS		
	Reported	Remedied	Outstanding
Suitable and sufficient ventilation not provided	3	5	1
Suitable and sufficient ventilation not maintained	10	10	—
Efficient means for securing a reasonable temperature not provided	10	10	5
Suitable temperature not maintained	4	7	—
Suitable and sufficient means of lighting not provided or maintained	3	2	1
Insufficient and unsuitable washing facilities	951	932	208
Unsuitable facilities for the taking of meals	2	3	—
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION			
Insufficient	29	26	6
Separate not provided for the sexes	13	13	8
Ventilation inadequate	22	7	18
Lighting inadequate	119	98	41
Floors, wall, basins, seats, cisterns, etc., defective or dirty	107	92	38
Screenings, doors, fasteners, etc., defective or not provided	38	28	26
Absence of an intervening ventilated space	48	39	10
Separate means of approach	4	5	1
TOTAL	1,363	1,277	363

The defects remedied include outstanding defects from previous year.

Report on Inspection of Shops under the Public Health Acts

Number of public health nuisances discovered	...	...	359
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	160
Number of nuisances abated on receipt of notice	...	...	346
Number of outstanding Statutory Notices at end of year	...	...	29

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts

Report on the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899 in relation to sampling so as to check the nature, substance and quality of food sold within the City.

Control is exercised over the composition, nature and quality of food and drugs so as to afford the maximum protection to the ordinary purchaser against exploitation and fraud. The gross and bare-faced forms of adulteration practised by unscrupulous manufacturers or vendors in past years, for example, selling margarine for butter, have to a great extent been replaced by more subtle means of adulteration, and misdescriptions and over-exaggerated statements on labels and in advertisements.

The Food and Drugs Inspectors continually adjust their procedure to meet changing conditions and in deciding upon the selection of samples to be procured for analysis, regard has to be had to those articles of food and drugs most commonly found to be adulterated, so that they may be sampled at a higher rate than less likely articles such as reputable pre-packed foods.

Year	Number of samples taken for chemical analysis			Number of samples adulterated			Percentage of samples adulterated		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
1949	972	57	1,029	34	—	34	3.49	—	3.30
1950	1,012	15	1,027	21	—	21	2.07	—	2.04
1951	1,026	19	1,045	14	—	14	1.36	—	1.34
1952	1,048	15	1,065	22	1	23	2.06	6.66	2.16
1953	1,319	7	1,326	46	2	48	3.48	28.57	3.61

The total number of samples of food and drugs examined during the year for the City was 1,326. The fact that a sample is obtained under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts does not prevent action being taken under other legal enactments, and therefore, when the samples were examined and reported upon, regard was given to all relevant legislation. The nature of the various articles submitted, and the numbers of each kind are shown in the following table.

Samples of Food and Drugs analysed during the year

Formal Samples...1,319 Informal Samples...7

ARTICLE			Number Examined	ARTICLE			Number Examined
Almonds, ground...	...	...	5	Cream of Tartar	...	...	8
Aspirin	...	...	2	Curd	...	...	6
Bannock, aerated wheaten...	...	...	1	Dates	...	...	3
Barley	...	...	9	Emulsion, cod liver oil	...	...	1
Beans	...	...	1	Essence of rennet...	...	...	2
Beans, golden, butter	...	...	1	Farola	...	...	5
Beans, in tomato sauce	...	...	1	Fat, cooking	...	...	3
Beef, minced	...	...	90	Fat, cooking, compound	...	...	1
Borax and honey	...	...	1	Fish dressing	...	...	1
Brandy	...	...	3	Fish paste	...	...	8
Breadcrumbs, golden	...	...	1	Flour	...	...	6
Butter	...	...	25	Flour, cake, sweetened	...	...	2
Butter confectionery	...	...	9	Flour, self-raising	...	...	2
Buttermilk	...	...	9	Flour, soya	...	...	1
Cheese spread	...	...	1	Fruit, dried	...	...	12
Cherries, glaze	...	...	2	Fruit juice	...	...	2
Chocolate, drinking	...	...	10	Fruit wine, non-alcoholic	...	...	1
Chocolate, milk	...	...	1	Gelatine, edible	...	...	1
Chutney	...	...	1	Gin	...	...	10
Chutney, tomato	...	...	6	Gin, orange	...	...	1
Cinnamon	...	...	8	Ginger, ground	...	...	5
Cocoa	...	...	4	Glycerine	...	...	1
Coconut, dessicated	...	...	10	Glycerine and honey	...	...	1
Cod liver oil capsules	...	...	1	Herbs, dried, mixed	...	...	1
Coffee, ground	...	...	1	Honey	...	...	3
Coffee, soluble	...	...	1	Ice cream	...	...	82
Coffee and Chicory Essence	...	...	12	Jam	...	...	23
Coffee and Chicory Solids	...	...	1	Jelly, calves foot	...	...	1
Condiment, non-brewed	...	...	22	Jelly, crystals	...	...	28
Cornflour	...	...	16	Jelly, table	...	...	10
Confectionery	...	...	4	Ketchup, tomato	...	...	2
Crab, dressed	...	...	2	Lard	...	...	12
Cream	...	...	7	Lemon Cheese	...	...	1
Cream, double	...	...	2	Lentils	...	...	2

ARTICLE	Number Examined	ARTICLE	Number Examined
Lollipops, iced	4	Prunes	1
Lucozade	2	Pudding, black	1
Magnesia, bicarbonate of	4	Rice	3
Margarine	15	Rice, ground	2
Marmalade	2	Rum	1
Meat, luncheon	4	Salad cream	12
Meat, minced	2	Salts, epsom	3
Meat paste	11	Salts, liver	1
Meat roll	8	Sauce	17
Milk condensed	7	Sausages	150
Mincemeat, sweet	13	Sausage improver	1
Mustard	20	Sausage, liver	3
Nutmeg, ground	3	Sausage meat	24
Oil, cod liver	1	Semolina	6
Oil, olive	5	Sherbet	1
Ointment, boracic	3	Soda, bicarbonate... ..	4
Ointment, zinc	5	Soda, baking	5
Paraffin, liquid	9	Soft drinks	49
Parrish's Chemical Food	3	Soup Mixture	2
Pastry	1	Soup, vegetable	2
Peas	3	Spice	10
Peas, dried	6	Suet, shredded, beef	8
Peel, candied	2	Sultanas	1
Peel, mixed cut	4	Sweetmilk	187
Pepper	15	Tablets, saccharin	1
Pepper, flavoured compound	1	Tapioca	4
Peroxide of hydrogen	3	Tea	44
Picallilli	2	Vegetables, dehydrated	2
Pickles	4	Vinegar	10
Powder, baking	19	Vinegar, malt	11
Powder, boracic acid	1	Walnuts	1
Powder, curry	3	Walnuts, pickled	1
Powder, custard	21	Wine, ginger	1
Powder, golden raising	2	Wine, port	2
Powder, lemonade	1	Whiskey	21
Powder, seidlitz	2	Yorkshire Relish	4
Powder, sherbet	1		

Legal Proceedings in respect of Adulterated Foods

NATURE OF SAMPLE	Total Number of samples taken	Adulterations	Prosecutions	Convictions	Fines
Beef minced	90	22	22	21	£62 os. od.
Butter	25	3	2	2	£1 10s. od.
Butter Confectionery	9	3	3	3	P.O.A.
Buttermilk	9	1	1	1	£1 os. od.
Condiment, non-brewed	22	1	1	1	£1 os. od.
Ice Cream	82	3	3	3	£19 os. od.
Sausages	150	7	7	7	£14 os. od.
Sausage Meat	24	4	4	4	£9 os. od.
Whiskey	21	2	2	2	£5 10s. od.

Cases of adulteration in which no legal proceedings were instituted but owners were cautioned:—Butter 1; Prunes 1.

The following are the particulars of samples specially reported during the year by the Public Analyst:

Minced Beef :

Twenty samples of Minced Beef contained Sulphur-dioxide as preservative in amounts varying from 100 to 3,500 parts per million. Minced Beef, according to the provisions of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) (Northern Ireland) Regulations, 1927 must not contain preservatives.

Beef Sausages :

Seven samples of Beef Sausages contained 700 to 3,600 parts per million of Sulphur-dioxide which is much in excess of the 450 parts permitted under the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) (Northern Ireland) Regulations, 1927 to be present in Beef Sausages.

Sausage Meat :

Four samples of Sausage Meat contained from 700 to 900 parts per million of Sulphur-dioxide against 450 parts permitted under the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) (Northern Ireland) Regulations, 1927.

Minced Meat :

One sample of Minced Meat contained 1,050 parts Sulphur-dioxide as preservative. Minced Meat, according to the provisions of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) (Northern Ireland) Regulations, 1927 must not contain preservative.

Butter :

Three samples of Butter contained water in excess of the 16.0 per cent. allowed. The water content of these three samples was 19 per cent., 17½ per cent., and 18½ per cent. respectively.

Butter Confectionery :

Two samples of Butter Confectionery, namely " Butter Selection " and " Butter Mixture " contained only 0.3 per cent. and 1.3 per cent. of fat respectively. Sweets of this type are required, by agreement, to contain at least 4 per cent of Butter-fat.

One sample of Butter Scotch contained only 1.7 per cent. of fat, and was, therefore, at least 57.5 per cent. deficient in Butter-fat, having regard to the agreed minimum of 4 per cent. Butter-fat for Butter Confectionery in accordance with the agreed Code of Practice.

Non-brewed Condiment :

One sample of non-brewed Condiment contained only 2.8 per cent. Acetic Acid and was, therefore, 30.0 per cent. deficient in Acetic Acid, the accepted standard being a minimum of 4 per cent. Acetic Acid in accordance with agreed Code of Practice.

Ice Cream :

Three samples were deficient, one deficient in fat, sucrose and milk solids other than fat, to the extent of 34 per cent., 46.6 per cent., and 40 per cent. respectively of the minimum amounts which should be present, and two deficient in fat to the extent of 24 per cent. and 36 per cent. of the minimum amount which should be present as stipulated in the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953.

Buttermilk :

One sample contained 26.8 parts of water in excess of the 25 parts water allowed for " churning."

Lemon Flavoured Soda Water :

In the case of one sample of Soft Drink labelled " Lemon Flavoured Soda Water," which contained 7 per cent. sugar and acidity equivalent to 0.22 per cent. Citric Acid, attention was drawn to the misleading nature of the description on the label.

Whiskey :

Two samples, one of which was 40 degrees and the other 41.32 degrees under proof, were below the strength laid down by the Intoxicating Liquor Act (Northern Ireland), 1923 for Whiskey and other spirits, which is 35 degrees under proof.

Iced Cookie :

One Iced Cookie was grossly contaminated with mouse excreta.

Prunes :

One sample was found to be in a fermented condition and reported as unfit for human consumption.

Port Wine :

One sample slightly below the declared Alcoholic strength was reported as of inferior composition.

A number of other samples submitted showed minor deficiencies and were returned as of inferior composition. These were:—

Four ice creams slightly low in fat ; two pork sausages slightly low in meat content ; two sausages containing a little excess of sulphur-dioxide ; one minced beef containing a small amount of sulphur-dioxide ; one sausage meat containing a slight excess of sulphur-dioxide ; one butter containing 16.2 per cent. of water against 16 per cent. allowed ; one non-brewed condiment deficient in acetic acid ; one grape-fruit squash in a fermented condition due to the presence of active yeasts and two samples of kali water low in potassium bicarbonate.

In addition to the above, a portion of aerated wheaten bannock, reported as "inferior," contained the remains of a black coloured insect, which was identified as a beetle "Tenebrides Mauritanicus," known as the "Cadelle," an insect which inhabits flour and other stored products.

Milk Control

Containing, as it does, all the requisites of a complete food, there is ample reason why milk occupies so high a place in the scale of human foods. During the past few years, the quantity of milk produced and consumed has increased considerably and its nutritional value has been widely demonstrated.

Milk, as secreted, is almost a sterile fluid, but unfortunately, during every stage from the cow to the consumer, contamination is possible. In consequence, it may become contaminated during milking operations, by unclean milk utensils, in course of transit or distribution and upon the dairy or consumers' premises. The sources of contamination of milk are so numerous and varied that the bacterial content becomes complex, and further complicated by the fact that milk is a most suitable medium for the growth of most organisms.

Only Grade A (T.T.) and Pasteurised milk are on sale in Belfast. Persons producing, pasteurising and distributing milk must hold a licence for that purpose from the Ministry of Agriculture, under the Milk Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, and comply with the conditions laid down in Statutory Rules and Orders (Northern Ireland), 1951, No. 189.

All Grade "A" Tuberculin Tested Milk sold in the City is wholly farm bottled and is delivered direct to the consumer from the producers' premises. On an average, 50,000 gallons of sweet milk are pasteurised daily at the six dairies within the Borough. At three dairies the High Temperature Short Time method of pasteurisation is carried out—the milk is retained at a temperature of not less than 161.5°F. for at least 15 seconds and then cooled immediately to a temperature of not more than 45°F. At two dairies, the Holder method of pasteurisation is still in operation : the milk is retained at a temperature of not less than 145°F. and not more than 150°F. for at least 30 minutes and then cooled immediately to a temperature of not more than 45°F. The remaining dairy operates the dual system of both Holder method and High Temperature Short Time method of pasteurisation of milk. The sales of pasteurised milk in the City have shown a steady increase throughout the year.

Number of Licensed Producers of milk in City	...	...	...	7
Average number of cows on Licensed Producers' premises	...	...	...	171
Number of Wholesale Distributors of milk	...	...	...	27
Number of Retail Distributors of pasteurised milk	...	...	...	1,182
Number of Retailers distributing Grade "A" (T.T.) milk	...	...	...	32
Number of inspections of dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	...	957
Number of samples of milk taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	187
Number of breaches found in dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	...	58
Approximate number of gallons of milk per day pasteurised	...	...	...	50,000
Number of dairies in City where milk is pasteurised...	...	...	...	6

The average composition of the milk samples submitted and examined by the Public Analyst (which were all of genuine composition) is given in table:—

Month			Number	Total Solids per cent.	Fat per cent.	Solids Not Fat per cent.
January	...	...	16	12.52	3.77	8.75
February	...	...	10	12.40	3.70	8.70
March	...	...	16	12.38	3.71	8.67
April	...	...	18	12.31	3.56	8.75
May	...	...	22	12.20	3.44	8.76
June	...	...	16	12.34	3.50	8.84
July	...	...	23	12.42	3.68	8.74
August	...	...	18	12.46	3.68	8.78
September	...	...	21	12.52	3.75	8.77
October	...	...	15	12.58	3.88	8.70
November	...	...	8	12.55	3.90	8.65
December	...	...	4	12.25	3.67	8.58

Year	Number of Samples Taken	Number of Samples Adulterated	Percentage of Samples Adulterated
1949	294	11	3.74
1950	307	4	1.3
1951	202	—	—
1952	235	1	0.42
1953	187	—	—

Particulars of Bacteriological Examination regarding the Cleanliness of Milk

A total of 777 samples of sweetmilk were collected by Food and Drugs Inspectors and forwarded to the Bacteriologist at the Public Health Laboratory, Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority, for bacteriological and coliform organisms test. 693 samples of sweetmilk were tested for phosphatase reaction. In every case where the Bacteriologist reported that a sample did not reach the required standard of cleanliness, a letter was sent to the producer, wholesaler or retailer concerned, calling his attention to the result of the examination and requesting co-operation in the supply of clean milk. 132 samples of grade "A" Tuberculin Tested sweetmilk were collected and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory, Purdysburn, for biological examination.

Test	Grade of Sweetmilk	Number of Samples Examined	Result of Test			
			Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Plate Count ...	"A" (T.T.)	84	72	85.70	12	14.29
Coliform Count ...	"A" (T.T.)	84	75	89.29	9	10.71
Coliform Count ...	Pasteurised	693	656	94.96	37	5.04
Phosphatase ...	Pasteurised	693	692	99.85	1	0.15
Biological ...	"A" (T.T.)	132	*130	98.48	—	—

* Two tests were not completed owing to the death of test animals.

Margarine Factories and Wholesale Premises

The number of registered premises is 78 ; of this number, 33 establishments were inspected during the year and no contraventions were reported arising from the presence of adulterants or the structural arrangements in premises where margarine is handled and stored.

Mineral Water Manufacturers

During the year inspections were carried out in these premises and 36 samples of mineral waters were obtained by the Food Inspectors and submitted to the Bacteriologist, Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority for examination. The result of the examination showed that 29 samples were highly satisfactory and 7 samples were satisfactory.

The Control of Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The procedure under the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878 and the Public Health Act (Amendment) Act 1890, for dealing with unfit food is expeditious and generally satisfactory and enables the Food Inspectors to seize such food immediately. It is an offence for a person to sell or offer or expose for sale or to possess for the purpose of sale, or of preparation for sale, any food intended for, but unfit for human consumption.

A Sanitary Officer may at all reasonable times examine any food intended for human consumption which has been sold, or is intended for food, and if it appears to him to be unfit for human consumption, he may seize it and have it dealt with by a Justice of the Peace who may order it to be destroyed or so disposed of as to prevent it being used for human food.

The following unsound foodstuffs were surrendered after examination by Food and Drugs Inspectors of the Department and were destroyed or disposed of otherwise than for the food of man under supervision. The term "surrendered" includes cases in which Inspectors have discovered unwholesome food in the course of their duty, but in which, owing to the traders' acceptance of the Inspector's decisions, it was not necessary to obtain a Magistrate's Order prior to destruction.

During the year, 3,880 certificates were issued in connection with the undernoted foodstuffs.

Articles	Tins. Jars, Packets, Bottles	Articles	Tins. Jars, Packets, Bottles
Asparagus	99	Milk of Magnesia	5
Baby Foods	106	Milk Puddings	583
Beans	2,654	Miscellaneous	33
Beetroot	178	Molasses	1
Beverages	9	Mustard	11
Bisto	114	Paste	110
Black Puddings	11	Peanut Butter	3
Cheese	692	Peas	4,033
Cheese Spread	2,092	Pepper	4
Coconut	16	Pickles	10
Coconut Wafers	96	Pudding Mixture	47
Coffee	14	Puddings and Dumplings	175
Corn	37	Raising and Baking Powder	205
Cream	98	Salad Cream	560
Curry Powder	3	Sandwich Spread	280
Dessert Powder	868	Sauce	271
Fish	1,262	Sausages	47
Flour, cake and scone mixture	25	Sausage Casings	101
Fruit	15,205	"Soreen" Cream	2
Fruit Jellies	66	Soup and Broth	1,884
Fruit Juice	350	Soup Mixture	2
Fruit Mincemeat	30	Spaghetti	130
Fruit Sauce	14	Spinach	60
Gelatine Crystals	5	Stews	69
Glace Cherries	2	Suet, Beef	13
Ham	7	Swiss Rolls	12
Honey	3	Syrup	345
Instant Postum	86	Tea	260
Jam	417	Tomatoes	730
Jellies	225	Tomato Juice	88
Jelly Making Compound	13	Tomato Ketchup	58
Macaroni	143	Tomato Puree	31
Macedoines	27	Treacle	8
Marmalade	210	Veal and Ham Loaf	483
Mayonnaise	362	Vegetables	492
Meat, Brawn, Veal and Pork	2,932	Walnuts, Pickled	3
Milk	1,653	Whipping Compound	2

Articles	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Articles	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beans	—	—	3	17	Jam	—	1	—	1
Biscuits	—	1	—	4	Liver	—	—	—	13
Black Puddings	—	—	1	—	Liver Sausage	—	—	—	14
Butter	—	—	—	16	Margarine	—	—	2	8
Cheese	—	1	1	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meat (Tinned)	—	11	1	13
Coconut	—	3	3	10	Meat, Brawn, Veal and Pork	—	15	1	14
Confectionery	—	2	1	—	Peas	—	—	2	5
Dried Egg	—	9	—	22	Potatoes	—	1	2	—
Dried Fruit	1	6	1	17	Pressed Beef	—	—	2	17
Flour	—	1	2	—	Rice	—	2	—	3
Fruit (Large Tins)	4	18	2	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tapioca	—	—	—	3
Fruit Pulp (Large Tins)	—	—	1	16	Veal and Ham Loaf	—	—	—	6
Ham	—	15	—	4	Vegetables (Large Tins)	—	—	—	24

The following table shows the amount of foodstuffs seized by the Food and Drugs Inspectors as being unsound, unwholesome and unfit for the food of man, and taken before a magistrate who granted a condemnation order for the destruction of same. Details of legal proceedings arising therefrom will be found under the heading "Analysis of Legal Proceedings."

Articles			Tins, Jars, Packets, Bottles	Articles			Tins, Jars, Packets, Bottles
Baking Powder	...	...	1	Molasses	...	...	1
Beans	...	...	2	Oatmeal, Baby Flake	...	...	3
Blackcurrant Puree	...	...	1	Oats, Porage	...	...	10
Carrots	...	...	1	Pastry Mix	...	...	4
Cheese	...	...	1	Peas	...	...	24
Cherries, Glace	...	...	1	Plums	...	...	5
Chocolate Pudding	...	...	1	Potato Powder	...	...	1
Corn	...	...	1	Pudding, Sago	...	...	2
Cornflour	...	...	3	Rhubarb	...	...	1
"Crisco" Powder	...	...	1	Sandwich Spread	...	...	1
Curry Powder	...	...	3	Sausage, Pork	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	3	Sliced Apples	...	...	1
Gelatine	...	...	1	Spaghetti	...	...	1
Gooseberries	...	...	1	Suet, Beef	...	...	1
Jam	...	...	11	Tapioca	...	...	1
Jelly, Table	...	...	2	Tomatoes	...	...	2
Junket Powder	...	...	1	Tomato Puree	...	...	3
Lemonade	...	...	1	Treacle and Pudding	...	...	1
Lemon Cheese	...	...	2	Vegetables, Mixed	...	...	4
Liquid Chocolate	...	...	1	Vinegar, Malt	...	...	1
Marmalade	...	...	6				

Poultry	18	Iced Cookie	1	Wheaten Bannock	1
Bread	6 Loaves	Buns	4	Buttermilk	6 quarts

Articles	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Articles	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Cooking Fat	—	—	—	3½	Sugar, Demerera	—	—	—	14
Fish	—	4	1	—	Tea	—	—	—	10
Figs	—	1	1	—	Dried Prunes	1	5	—	3
Sugar	—	1	—	8	Yeast	—	—	—	7

Sale of Ice Cream Acts (Northern Ireland), 1937 and 1950

Premises	Manufacture	Manufacture and Sale	Sale Only	Total
Total number of premises on register at 31st December, 1952	7	119	595	721
Total number of deletions of premises from register during 1953	3	65	44	112
Total number of premises registered during 1953	—	2	152	154
Total number of premises on register at 31st December, 1953	4	56	703	763

It will be noted that the number of manufacturers is decreasing. This does not mean that the popularity of ice cream is waning but is due to the fact that the small manufacturer is finding it more economical to purchase his supplies from the larger firms whose products are not only more palatable but are more likely to be of a satisfactory standard both chemically and bacteriologically.

During recent years there has been a continuous improvement in the condition of buildings where ice cream is prepared, and it is with pleasure that I record that 60 per cent. of the registered manufacturers have two or more rooms in which the various processes are carried out. There is considerable difficulty in manufacturers being able to conduct their business properly, when the mixing and pasteurising of the ingredients and the cleansing of the apparatus has to be done in the same room.

Number of inspections of registered premises during the year	2,331
Number of summonses issued for breaches of the Acts, Bye-laws, Regulations and Orders	11
Number of samples submitted during the year for bacteriological examination	972
Number of samples submitted during the year for chemical analysis ...	82

The Minister of Food made certain standards for ice-cream manufactured for sale. The Order came into operation on 1st June, 1953, and is known as the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953, and provides that ordinary ice-cream shall contain not less than 5 per cent. of fat, 7½ per cent. of milk solids other than fat and 10 per cent. of sugar, of which not less than 7½ per cent. must be sucrose.

Ice cream containing any fruit, fruit pulp or fruit puree shall conform to the above standard or, alternatively, the total content of fat, sugar and milk solids other than fat shall be not less than 25 per cent. of the ice-cream including the fruit, fruit pulp or fruit puree, as the case may be, and the total content of fat, sugar and milk solids other than fat shall include not less than 7½ per cent. fat, 10 per cent. sugar and 2 per cent. milk solids other than fat.

“ Parev ” (Kosher) ice-cream offered or exposed for sale under that description shall contain not less than 10 per cent. fat and not less than 14 per cent. sugar.

During the year samples have been taken for two types of analysis, namely chemical and bacteriological and in the latter case the laboratory reports incorporate plate count and coliform organisms tests.

Number of Samples	In compliance with prescribed standards		Not in compliance with prescribed standards			
	Number	Percentage	Fat		Total Solids	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
82	79	96.34	3	3.66	—	—

Action was taken in regard to the samples which did not comply with the prescribed standards.

Particulars of Bacteriological Examinations

Plate Count 972 Samples

Organisms per Millilitre	Number of Samples	Percentage of Total Samples
200,000 or under	940	96.70
Over 200,000 and under 500,000 ...	8	0.82
Over 500,000 and under 1,000,000..	6	0.62
Over 1,000,000	18	1.86

Coliform Test 972 Samples

Coliform Organisms	Number of Samples	Percentage of Total Samples
Absent in 1 millilitre ...	880	90.53
Present in 1 millilitre ...	26	2.67
Present in 1/10 millilitre ...	21	2.16
Present in 1/100 millilitre ...	12	1.24
Present in 1/1000 millilitre ...	33	3.40

During the year 98 cautionary letters were sent to vendors whose ice-cream did not comply with the bacteriological standard as prescribed by Regulation S.R. and O. 1945, No. 71, made by the Ministry of Agriculture under Section 10 of the Sale of Ice Cream Act (Northern Ireland), 1937.

The following table gives a summary of the inspections made during the year of food shops, food stores, food manufacturers' premises, etc., by Food and Drugs Inspectors:—

Description of Premises	Number of Inspections
Bacon Curing Premises ...	3
Butchers' Shops ...	1,967
Chemists' Shops ...	4
Cold Stores ...	6
Confectionery Shops ...	3,267
Fish Shops ...	795
Fish and Chip Shops ...	690
Food Manufacturers ...	137
Fruiterers ...	2,784
Grocers' Shops ...	4,344
Hawkers' Carts ...	830
Ice Cream Shops ...	2,331
Industrial Canteens ...	12
Jam Factories ...	2
Markets ...	138
Meat Factories ...	43
Milk Shops ...	937
Mineral Water Factories ...	40
Pastry Shops ...	5
Provision Shops ...	1,988
Public Houses ...	624
Restaurants ...	669
Wholesale Stores ...	393
TOTAL ...	22,009

The Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948

These Regulations deal with the conditions in rooms where food intended for human consumption is prepared for sale, or sold, or offered or exposed for sale, or deposited for the purpose of sale, or of preparation for sale. Their purpose is to secure that the physical state of the room and equipment and the behaviour of the persons in it are, so far as practicable, such that the danger of contamination is minimised. They lay down conditions for the cleansing and repair of walls, ceilings, windows, doors, etc., the removal of refuse and the position of refuse bins, water closets, cisterns, wash-hand basins, and the means of ventilation. The use of the room for living or sleeping purposes is prohibited. The persons employed in the room must keep their person and clothing as well as the room and the equipment clean. A sufficient number of wash-hand basins, with a constant supply of hot and cold water laid on, soap and clean towels, must be provided and maintained in good condition.

During the year 210 plans of new work submitted to the City Surveyor were forwarded to the Health Department for comment.

The following table gives a summary of defects discovered in food premises (other than butchers, ice cream, fish and chip, restaurants, snack-bars, canteens and licensed premises which are reported elsewhere).

Breaches of Regulations	DEFECTS		
	Reported	Remedied	In Progress
No proper preparation room ...	1	3	—
Ceilings, walls, doors, windows, floors, etc., in disrepair ...	103	38	19
Ceilings, walls, doors, windows, required cleansing and re-decoration ...	38	12	8
Sink, hot and cold water not provided or insufficient ...	37	14	—
Sanitary accommodation not provided or insufficient ...	22	10	7
Light and ventilation not provided or insufficient ...	98	48	21
Drain inlets within the food room ...	10	4	—
Failure to prevent risk of contamination of food ...	80	28	7
Unsuitable cloakroom accommodation ...	2	1	—
No personal washing facilities provided ...	119	43	18
No properly constructed intervening space provided to sanitary conveniences ...	10	—	—
Wastepipes to sinks defective ...	63	21	11
No proper refuse bins or storage of refuse unsatisfactory ...	16	5	4
TOTAL ...	599	227	95

The defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

Registration of Butchers' Shops Belfast Corporation Act (Northern Ireland) 1930, Section 43

Total number of premises on register as at 31st December, 1952 ...	387
Number of premises registered during 1953 ...	17
Number of premises deleted from register during 1953 ...	18
Total number of premises on register at 31st December, 1953 ...	386
Total number of inspections of registered premises during 1953...	1,967

Breaches of the Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948, discovered by Food and Drugs Inspectors during 1953.

Conditions discovered on Inspection in Butchers' Shops	DEFECTS		
	Reported	Remedied	In Progress
No proper preparation room ...	6	37	10
Walls, ceilings, floors, doors, etc., in disrepair ...	40	76	53
Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors, etc., require cleansing or re-decoration ...	6	8	5
Light and ventilation not provided or insufficient ...	14	33	35
Sink, hot and cold water not provided or insufficient ...	9	27	23
Wastepipes to sinks defective ...	1	3	2
Sanitary accommodation not in compliance or not provided ...	7	7	1
Drain inlets within the food room ...	2	4	1
Failure to prevent risk of contamination of food ...	9	11	9
No personal washing facilities provided ...	7	—	—
Cleanliness with regard to clothing, articles, utensils and apparatus not observed ...	—	8	6
No proper receptacles for storage of bones ...	2	4	2
TOTAL ...	103	221	150

The defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

Breaches of Regulations	DEFECTS		
	Reported	Remedied	In Progress
Dining rooms : walls, ceilings, windows, etc., required cleansing ...	3	1	—
Dining rooms : walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair ...	4	5	3
Dining rooms : ventilation not provided or not maintained ...	1	2	1
Kitchens : walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair ...	4	17	4
Kitchens : walls, ceilings, floors, windows, etc., required cleansing	4	6	—
Kitchens : ventilation not provided or not maintained ...	2	9	—
Food stores : walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair ...	—	3	3
Food stores: walls, ceilings, floors, windows, etc., required cleansing	—	1	1
Cleanliness of articles, utensils and apparatus not observed ...	4	4	—
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities not provided ...	1	4	2
Supply of hot and cold water not provided or not sufficient ...	4	10	1
No sink provided for food preparation ...	2	5	1
Equipment defective, worn, required repair or renewal ...	3	4	—
Swill-bin accommodation unsatisfactory ...	1	1	—
Storage of food, inadequate or unsatisfactory ...	1	5	—
Handling of food, unsatisfactory methods used ...	16	25	3
No suitable apparatus provided for removal of fumes ...	1	1	1
Drain inlets within food room ...	—	3	—
Sanitary accommodation not provided for each sex, or insufficient or defective ...	7	—	4
TOTAL ...	58	106	24

The defects remedied include outstanding defects from previous year.

Licensed Premises

There are 586 licensed public houses in the City of Belfast in addition to 47 wholesale licensed spirit dealers and bottlers.

During the year a survey was commenced to ascertain the existing conditions which vary very considerably in the different types of licensed premises. Most of the large houses in or near the City Centre provide refreshments in the way of sandwiches, etc.; a few have a dining room or restaurant attached and a number are situated in the more obscure streets which rely almost entirely on local trade.

The survey was found necessary in order to obtain an overall picture of the environmental health conditions maintained in the licensed houses and also because of the increased number of these premises now engaged in the preparation and sale of food. The survey is intended to cover all aspects concerned with public health with particular reference to the following:—General condition of the premises ; facilities available for the storage, distribution and bottling of spirits, etc.; trade practice and its connection with public health ; bacteriological condition of drinking glasses ; catering activities ; education and training of personnel. Attempts are being made to give high priority to sanitary accommodation, lighting, ventilation, drainage and personal washing facilities for the staff.

624 visits were made to licensed premises during the year and appropriate notices were issued in cases where the undernoted defects were observed.

Conditions discovered on Inspection	DEFECTS		
	Reported	Remedied	In Progress
Bars and parlours : walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair ...	52	9	42
Bars and parlours : walls, ceilings, floors, windows, etc., required cleansing ...	9	—	2
Bars and parlours : ventilation not provided, or not maintained ...	73	12	20
Beer cellars or bottling rooms: walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair	164	23	59
Beer cellars or bottling rooms : walls, ceilings, floors, windows, etc., required cleansing ...	36	6	11
Beer cellars or bottling rooms : ventilation not provided or not maintained ...	54	12	14
Accumulation of filth or refuse within any rooms ...	2	—	1
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities not provided ...	239	28	68
Failure to prevent risk of contamination of food ...	24	6	9
Beer pipes, trays, drainers or sinks : defective, worn or cleanliness not maintained ...	134	25	34
No proper room for preparation of sandwiches, etc. ...	8	—	3
Glasses : unsatisfactory method of cleansing ...	116	15	41
Unsatisfactory methods of bottle washing ...	78	11	25
Drain inlets within food room ...	112	12	37
Sanitary Accommodation			
Sanitary conveniences within or communicating direct with food room ...	101	9	29
Sanitary accommodation not provided for males ...	17	—	2
Sanitary accommodation not provided for females ...	28	1	12
Screens, doors, fasteners, etc., defective or not provided ...	34	5	13
Lighting or ventilation not provided or inadequate ...	28	3	8
Floors, basins, seats, walls, etc., dirty or defective ...	15	—	5
Flush to water closets defective or inadequate ...	11	1	1
Urinals, defective or insanitary ...	16	—	9
Urinals, absence of or insufficient flush thereto ...	120	9	47
TOTAL ...	1,471	187	492

Registration of Premises used for the Business of a Vendor of Fried Fish or Fried Potatoes Belfast Corporation (General Powers) Act (Northern Ireland), 1948, Section 25

The owner or occupier of any premises within the City used or proposed to be used for the business of a vendor of fried fish or fried potatoes who desires to have such premises registered in accordance with the provisions of the above Act, shall make application in writing to the Corporation. The Corporation may on certain grounds (as set out in Statutory Rules and Orders (Northern Ireland) 1950, No. 102 refuse to register the premises, or they may cancel the registration of any premises on any grounds which would entitle them to refuse registration of those premises.

Total number of premises on register as at 31st December, 1952	...	178
Number of premises registered during 1953	...	30
Number of premises deleted from register during 1953	...	15
Number of premises not in compliance with bye-laws and refused registration during 1953	...	2
Total number of premises on register at 31st December, 1953	...	193
Number of summonses issued for using unregistered premises during 1953	...	1
Total number of inspections of premises during 1953	...	690

Breaches of Bye-Laws discovered on Premises used for the Business of Fried Fish or Fried Potatoes	DEFECTS		
	Reported	Remedied	In Progress
No preparation room and/or no potato store	4	6	—
Ceilings, walls, doors, windows, etc., required cleansing and re-decoration	9	11	1
Sink, hot and cold water not provided or insufficient	4	5	—
Sanitary accommodation not provided	—	1	—
Lighting or ventilation not provided or insufficient	8	6	—
Drain inlets within the food room	1	1	—
Unsuitable cooking ranges and no provision to collect gases or vapours	—	3	—
No provision to prevent solid matter entering the drain	5	6	—
Fixtures and fittings in a state of disrepair... ..	—	1	—
Failure to prevent risk of contamination of food	2	—	—
TOTAL	33	40	1

The defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

PESTS CONTROL SECTION

Rodent Control

The importance of adequate rodent control needs no emphasis, for it is recognised that the presence of a large rat and mouse population within the City is a potential danger to the health of the public. In addition, the financial and material loss occasioned by rodents, by the destruction and damage to essential food, to other valuable goods, to buildings and to installations, are also important factors to be considered. Regard must also be given to the possibility of food contamination by these pests.

The year was one of expansion and progress ; the results achieved were considered to be very satisfactory in reducing the rodent population to the lowest possible dimensions. A more concentrated system of the " Block Control " principle was applied to an area adjoining the docks and extending to the City Centre than was previously carried out. Intimatory letters were sent to the occupiers of business premises in the area requesting their co-operation ; subsequently, 665 buildings were test baited to determine more accurately the extent and degree of infestation and to press for the application of appropriate measures to exterminate all rats in the infested premises. Of the 665 test baited premises, 190 revealed infestations of varying degree. On the 190 infested premises, 161 merged into rat destruction campaigns carried out by the Pests Officers, involving 161 initial and 127 secondary campaigns. 127 of these premises were cleared of rats and secondary campaigns were in progress in the remaining 34 premises at the end of the year.

No evidence of re-infestation was revealed in 32 premises which had previously been cleared of rats by the Pests Officers and rat proofing measures executed.

Rat destruction firms were on contract by the occupiers in 21 premises, and occupiers in 8 premises took the necessary action after repeated warnings. In 4 instances it was found necessary to issue Statutory Notices under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The use of the new rodenticide " Warfarin " throughout the year in some initial and in all secondary campaigns was largely responsible for the increased number of premises treated.

This is best illustrated by a comparison with the year 1952:—

Number of premises treated, 1952 ...	91	Number of premises treated, 1953 ...	249
Number of poison campaigns, 1952 ...	215	Number of poison campaigns, 1953 ...	410
Number of premises test baited, 1952 ...	25	Number of premises test baited, 1953 ...	531

Following requests from the management of a large food factory for assistance in combating rat infestation, which was causing much damage in spite of heavy expenditure in attempted control measures without producing satisfactory results, the premises were surveyed by Pests Control Officers and a heavy infestation of black and brown rat was found. A plan of action was determined and applied to one section of the premises and later extended to cover the entire premises. A number of the firms' employees were instructed and supervised in practical methods of rodent control. The results achieved were remarkable and extensive rat proofing was in progress at the end of the year.

With the advent of the new "Warfarin" Poison the difficulty of clearing premises of mice has somewhat eased. "Warfarin" has less effect on human beings and animals than most other poisons and it can therefore be used in a variety of premises with comparative safety. When mice are present in large numbers, their parasites and diseases constitute a danger to health. Foodstuffs fouled by them may be dangerous for human consumption unless sterilised.

Statistical Details :

Number of surveys on lands and premises	...	...	...	6,096
Number of re-visits and re-inspections	...	...	...	5,459
			TOTAL	11,555
Number of lands, premises, etc., found infested	...	...	...	525
(a) Rat infestation	...	...	...	386
(i) Food premises	...	...	...	110
(ii) Non-food premises	...	...	...	276
(b) Mouse infestation	...	...	...	139
(i) Food premises	...	...	...	39
(ii) Non-food premises	...	...	...	100
Premises treated by Pests Officers	...	...	...	249
Number of poison campaigns carried out by Pests Officers on request of the occupier who undertook to pay costs	...	...	...	410
(a) For rats	388	(b) For mice	...	22
Number of school buildings and meals kitchens treated at the request of Director of Education	...	...	...	9
Number of poison campaigns carried out in school buildings and meals kitchens	...	...	...	9
(a) For rats	8	(b) For mice	...	1
Number of premises cleared of rats by Pests Officers	...	...	...	205
Number of premises where the clearing process was not completed at the end of the year	...	...	...	44
Number of premises test baited	...	...	...	531
Number of premises wherein the occupier undertook to eliminate rats or mice on Statutory or Verbal Notices under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	...	...	...	258
Action by rat destruction firms	...	...	...	80
(a) For rats	52	(b) For mice	...	28
Action taken by occupiers	...	...	...	178
(a) For rats	91	(b) For mice	...	87
Number of premises where rat-proofing and other works were carried out to prevent infestation	...	...	...	39
Number of Notices served under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	...	...	...	17
Number of Summonses served under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919	...	...	...	1
Action taken by District Sanitary Officers, re rat complaints :				
Number of premises where the drains were tested	...	...	...	266
Number of premises where drains were defective on test	...	...	...	113
Number of drains repaired (including drains discovered to be defective without test)	...	...	...	204

Sewer Treatment

The continued co-operation of the City Surveyor in this important function of rodent control is acknowledged. His assistance by providing additional labour made possible the considerable expansion of "sewer treatment."

During the year the areas were increased from 24 consisting of 1,763 sewer manholes to 55 areas with 4,657 manholes. This extended assault on the rat population in the sewers is very gratifying and will permit control to be more effectively exercised over a much greater area in the City.

Much preliminary work was necessary in preparing the new areas ; providing area maps of existing manholes and inserting, where necessary, baiting trays before the initial treatment commenced.

The total area of the City covered by " sewer treatment " is bounded :

ON NORTH BY:—ALLIANCE AVENUE. CLIFTONVILLE ROAD, SALISBURY AVENUE AND SKEGONIELL AVENUE.

ON SOUTH BY:—DONEGALL ROAD, OLYMPIA DRIVE, CAPSTONE STREET, WINDSOR PARK AND RIVER LAGAN.

ON EAST BY:—STATION STREET, HOLYWOOD ROAD, EARLSWOOD ROAD, SANDOWN ROAD, NORTH ROAD, LOOP RIVER AND ARDENLEE AVENUE.

ON WEST BY:—FALLS ROAD, SPRINGFIELD ROAD AND WOODVALE ROAD.

The standard method of pre-baiting and post-baiting was employed, consisting of baiting for two alternate days before poison baits were laid. Sausage Rusk and Bran, or soaked Wheat were used as baiting materials. Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic were the poisons used.

Rat destruction campaigns carried out in sewerage systems in co-operation

with the City Surveyor's Department	...	...	...	151
Total number of manholes treated in sewer areas	...	...	...	4,657
Total number of baits laid in manholes	...	...	...	13,927
Total number of baits taken by rats	...	...	...	8,094
Total number of poison baits laid in manholes	...	...	...	3,930
Total number of poison baits taken by rats	...	...	...	3,473

Mosquito Control

The seasonal work in connection with mosquito control in the City commenced on the 8th April and continued until the 3rd October. The method of control for the first two months was similar to that employed in previous years, and the work was performed by three labourers. This consisted of spraying oil from knapsack sprayers on those areas where preliminary surveys revealed the existence of mosquito larvae. Then followed a change in the technique of control when the Lister-Todd Fog Applicator was put into service, enabling a reduction in the number of labourers from three to one. The machine was satisfactorily operated by one of the Pests Officers. Not only was the machine a means of reducing the cost of applying control treatment but it deposited the oil by fogging on the surface of the water more finely and more evenly than was possible by the hand method.

Details of the various areas are as follows:—

1. **Bog Meadows :** The breaches in the west bank of the Blackstaff River permit flooding of this area when there is heavy rainfall. The area has obviously become a gathering ground for flood water when the river becomes gorged. Some of the flood water is retained in places with the result that these parts were inaccessible to the mosquito squad. This has been the position for years ; since the introduction of oil application by fogging more success has been achieved in the destruction of mosquito larvae.

2. **Hollywood Road and Tillysburn Area :** The area opposite Garnerville Road was heavily flooded until mid-summer when a drainage scheme was carried out by the Ministry of Commerce which was effective in reducing the large accumulations of static water. The area was satisfactorily treated by the fogging method from the Sydenham Road, when there was a suitable westerly wind. The mosquito breeding was moderate and control was well maintained.

3. **Orangefield Area, Bloomfield :** There was slight breeding of biting and non-biting types of mosquito in this area. Complete control was exercised.

4. **Dunerue Street Area :** This area is gradually shrinking due to the large scale dumping of refuse that is taking place. If the dumping continues as at present rate, it is expected that the area which now requires control treatment will be completely filled in within the next few years. This is one of the areas where the salt marsh mosquito is found, and throughout the season effective control measures were applied.

5. **Greencastle and Shore Road Areas :** The area adjoining the Ulster Transport Authority Railway and at the rear of the pre-fabricated houses, Shore Road, was surveyed. Little evidence of mosquito breeding was found. Oil spraying with the Knapsack sprayers was carried out as a precautionary measure where it was considered necessary. Moderate mosquito breeding was found at Greencastle Boundary and control by spraying with oil was effective.

6. **Malone and Lagan Valley Areas :** Considerable success in the destruction of mosquito larvae was achieved by the control measures in this area. The ground south of Deramore Park was treated by the use of knapsack sprayers as the approach to this area was impossible for the Tifa machine. Newforge and Bladon Drive areas were successfully controlled by fogging.

7. **Garden Plots :** The water containers in plots are prolific breeding places for mosquitoes. The covering of the containers has been urged and other control measures advised but it is difficult to get the plot holders to maintain these measures. Many inspections were made and any uncovered water barrels or other containers in which mosquito larvae were found were effectively treated with a larvicide. The following garden plots were visited:—Adelaide, Annadale Embankment, Bladon Drive, Beersbridge Road, Cairnburn Road, Channing Street, Gibson Park, "Holyrood" (Malone Road), Donegall Road, North Road, St. James's Road, Sydenham, Whitewell Road and Westland Road.

During the seasonal period the following materials were used:—

Month	Waste Turbine and Transformer Oil	Larvicide in gallons (Gammexane)	Larvicide in gallons (D.D.T.)	Petrol in gallons	Mileage
April ...	720	—	—	15½	209
May ...	800	—	1	15½	188
June ...	240	2	2	11½	193
July ...	320	1	2	9¾	136
August ...	600	3	2½	11¼	169
September ...	360	5	2	5½	82
TOTAL ...	3,040	11	9½	69	977

Insects other than Mosquitoes

During the year complaints regarding various kinds of insects were investigated and complainants advised on the best methods of dealing with their problems.

Pests Officers applied treatment in special circumstances such as extreme poverty, lack of intelligence or infirmity, and on requests from Sanitary Officers, Health Visitors and Social Workers where it was considered necessary in the interests of public health.

During the fly season there was an increase in the number of complaints. Flies are undoubtedly a menace to public health ; they carry and spread disease germs and contaminate food, utensils, etc. The best method of dealing with flies is at the source of breeding and in view of their tremendous reproductive capacity it is of paramount importance to kill the early females before egg laying can commence. Fly control is essential and with the appliances now available for control measures there is every reason to believe that it will with the concurrence of the persons concerned be used to a greater extent in the future.

Requests were complied with to deal with heavy infestations of steam flies which were causing much concern to the catering staff employed by the Hospitals Authority, who found it impossible to effectively apply control measures. The infestations were completely eliminated by the application of insecticides properly applied by the Pests Officer.

Numerous complaints of infestations of earwigs were received from occupants of prefabricated bungalows in different districts of the City. An arrangement was made with the Estates Superintendent to carry out treatment. The base of each bungalow was treated with D.D.T. which produced excellent results.

Number of visits to premises for ascertaining infestation	...	...	427		
Number of re-visits to premises	...	...	219		
Number of premises found to be infested	...	...	258		
(a) Bugs	...	51	(b) Flies	...	35
(c) Other insects	...	147	(d) Cockroaches	...	25
Total number of premises treated with insecticides	...	...	...	...	198

THE HYDROGEN CYANIDE (FUMIGATION) ACT, 1938

The Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1952. S.I. No. 213

The Regulations came into force on 1st December, 1952, and make detailed provision as to the precautions to be taken in carrying out the fumigation of buildings.

Notice of a forthcoming fumigation must be given to (a) The officer in charge of the police station for the police district when the fumigation is taking place outside the area of the harbour authority (b) if the building is situated within the area of the harbour authority, to that authority, and (c) the Medical Officer of Health. The notice must be sent so as to reach that person not less than forty-eight hours before the commencement of the fumigation unless in any case of special urgency the undertaker has otherwise arranged with that person. The undertaker shall supply to the Medical Officer of Health any further particulars with regard to the fumigation that he may require.

The staff of the fumigation contractors must have had experience of the use of hydrogen cyanide in buildings and be supplied with protective apparatus ; they must also be adequately trained in first aid and be fully conversant with the contents of the notices as set out in the Schedules of the Regulations. No unauthorised person may enter the risk area until it has been established by tests that no danger remains. Provision is made to deal with any fire which breaks out in the risk area.

After the fumigation has been completed, the operator shall be satisfied that the following requirements have been complied with—(a) that all containers used for generating the fumigant have been removed and safely disposed of ; (b) that all liquids, foodstuffs and articles (except articles exempted) which may constitute a danger through having become contaminated by the fumigant have been removed from the fumigation area and safely disposed of ; (c) that the fumigation area has been properly ventilated to secure dispersal of the fumigant ; (d) that proper tests have been carried out ; and (e) that all bedding and other articles likely to have absorbed the fumigant have been aired in such manner and for such a period as to ensure that they are free from residues which may subsequently produce dangerous concentrations of the fumigant.

Special provision is made with regard to the fumigation of foodstuffs, or where it is otherwise intended to leave exposed foodstuffs in the fumigation area. The undertaker shall, before undertaking the fumigation, apply to the Medical Officer of Health for a certificate authorising the fumigation or the retention in the fumigation area of such foodstuffs as are specified therein (a) in any case where the fumigation is to be carried out solely for the purpose of compliance with any regulations made, or having effect, under the Public Health Acts which empowers the making of regulations for the treatment of certain diseases and for preventing the spread of such diseases, (b) in any case where the fumigation is to be carried out solely for the purpose of compliance with a notice served under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and in any other case to a person designated for that purpose by the Ministry of Agriculture.

It will be appreciated from the foregoing details that the Regulations demand extensive precautions to protect human life during fumigation, but the greatest danger is undoubtedly carelessness, and it cannot be too strongly emphasised that every care must always be taken.

Number of notifications received where hydrogen cyanide was to be applied
to buildings

REPORT ON THE PORT SANITARY SECTION

The Corporation of Belfast as the Sanitary Authority was permanently constituted the Port Sanitary Authority for the Port of Belfast by the Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Act, 1900.

The expenses of the Port Sanitary Authority are contributed by Urban and Rural Sanitary Authorities in the following proportions:—

Belfast Borough Council	...	...	...	92 per cent.
Carrickfergus Borough Council	...	...	...	1 per cent.
Holywood Urban District Council	...	...	...	1 per cent.
Bangor Borough Council	...	...	...	1 per cent.
Belfast Rural District Council	...	...	...	1½ per cent.
Castlereagh Rural District Council	...	...	...	1½ per cent.
Larne Rural District Council	...	...	...	1 per cent.
North Down Rural District Council	...	...	...	1 per cent.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE A

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number recorded to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects have been remedied	Number of vessels reported as having had during the voyage infectious diseases on board
			By Medical Officer	By Sanitary Officer			
FOREIGN : Steamers) Motors) ...	643	871,978	92	643	107	102	1
Total Foreign ...	643	871,978	92	643	107	102	1
COASTWISE : (Including Non-Trading) Steamers) Motors) ...	8,337	4,215,407	12	1,437	215	209	30
Total Coastwise	8,337	4,215,407	12	1,437	215	209	30
Total Foreign and Coastwise	8,980	5,087,385	104	2,080	322	311	31

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT

TABLE B

(a) Passenger Traffic (other than coastwise) during the year.

Number of Passengers	Aliens		British		Total		Refused leave to land
	Forces	Civilians	Forces	Civilians	Forces	Civilians	
Inwards by Ship	—	130	1	236	1	367	13
Inwards by Aircraft ...	9	60	4	77	13	150	—
	9	190	5	313	14	517	13
Outwards by Ship	—	77	1	436	1	514	Refused leave to embark
Outwards by Aircraft ...	3	31	—	67	3	101	—
	3	108	1	503	4	615	—

(b) Cargo Traffic :

Principal Imports—Wheat, Barley, Oats, Linseed, Pollards, Timber, Flax, Ores, Paper, Iron, Steel, Coal, Cement, Fertilisers, Oil, Flour, Bran, Cattle Fodder, Tobacco, Fruit, Vegetables, Wines, Ales.

Principal Exports—Machinery, Ropes, Linen, Yarns, Tobacco, Cigarettes, Potatoes, Grass-seed, Eggs, Poultry, Rabbits, Apples, Live Cattle, Whiskey, Aerated Waters.

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrived:—

Abo, 5; Ajaccio, 1; Albany N.Y., 1; Amsterdam, 4; Antwerp, 31; Archangel, 4; Bahia Blanca, 5; Baltimore, 4; Balearic Is., 1; Barcelona, 1; Basra, 3; Bayonne, 1; Beira, 7; Bergen, 1; Bone, 4; Bordeaux, 2; Baurgas, 2; Bonifacio, 1; Bremen, 23; Brisbane, 3; Bunbury, 2; Buenos Aires, 14; Burriana, 3; Calcutta, 6; Cartagena, 1; Casablanca, 10; Chalna, 1; Christobal, 1; Copenhagen, 1; Cork, 3; Constanza, 1; Curacao, 1; Chittagong, 1; Castellon, 1; Cyprus, 1; Dar-es-salaam, 1; Demerera, 1; Drogheda, 1; Dublin, 13; Dundalk, 3; Dunkirk, 4; Esbjerg, 1; Famagusta, 2; Fray Bentos, 1; Fremantle, 3; Galveston, 2; Galway, 1; Gandia, 2; Geelong, 1; Genoa, 2; Ghent, 59; Gothenburg, 24; Guernsey, 39; Halifax, 6; Hamina, 1; Hamburg, 25; Hango, 1; Helsingfors, 2; Horsens, 1; Huelva, 2; Istanbul, 4; Itajoi, 1; Kherson, 2; Kini, 1; Kotka, 11; Kristinch, 1; Landskrona, 1; Larvik, 2; Las Palmas, 2; Le Havre, 1; Leixoes, 2; Letterkenny, 1; Lisbon, 3; Malov, 1; Malmo, 1; Mantyluoto, 6; Maslaganin, 1; Mombasa, 3; Montreal, 31; Necochea, 2; Newport News, 2; New Brunswick, 1; New Westminster, 2; Newcastle, N.S.W., 2; New York, 2; Norrsundet, 1; Novorossisk, 1; Norfolk, 2; Odense, 1; Onega, 1; Oran, 4; Oscarshavn, 2; Ostend, 10; Otterbracken, 2; Palermo, 1; Parrsboro, 1; Philadelphia, 2; Philippeville, 4; Port Adelaide, 2; Port Elizabeth, 1; Port Lincoln, 1; Port Said, 1; Propriano, 3; Quebec, 1; Rangoon, 1; Rafso, 1; Reykjavik, 5; Rosario, 4; Rotterdam, 68; Rouen, 18; Sapele, 1; Sandlos, 1; San Lorenzo, 2; San Nicolas, 1; Sheet Harbour, 1; Sas-van-gent, 3; Stavanger, 1; Stromstad, 1; Stord, 1; St. Johns, 13; St. Helier, 1; Sydney, 1; Tonga, 1; Teneriffe, 2; Three Rivers, 2; Toronto, 2; Torrevisa, 1; Trinidad, 1; Tromso, 1; Tunis, 1; Valencia, 14; Vancouver, 3; Viano-do-Castelo, 2; Waterford, 3; Warri, 1; Warnemunde, 1; Westermoons, 1; Zanzibar, 1; Zyghi Zelgate, 1.

The nationality of the vessels which arrived at the port and were inspected were as follows:—

American, 3; Argentinian, 5; Belgian, 5; British, 1,716; Costa Rican, 3; Danish, 11; Dutch, 197; Finnish, 11; French, 7; German, 17; Greek, 3; Hondurasian, 1; Icelandic, 2; Indian, 1; Italian, 4; Liberian, 2; Monrovia, 1; Norwegian, 41; Panamanian, 7; Rep. of Ire., 11; Spanish, 4; Swedish, 20; Swiss, 5; Yugo Slavian, 3.

Medical Inspection of Aliens

Annual Return by the Medical Inspector of Aliens for the Year ended 31st December, 1953.

During the period 1st January—30th September, the Medical Inspector (Port Medical Officer of Health) was not requested to medically examine any aliens.

	Total	Number Inspected by the medical officer	Number subjected to detailed medical examination by the Medical Inspector	Lunatic Idiot or M.D.	Undes- irable for medical reasons	Physic- ally incapac- itated	Suffering from Acute Infectious Diseases	Landing necessary for adequate medical examination	Trans- migrant
(a) Total number of aliens land- ing at the port	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by Im- migration Officer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Transmigrants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total aliens ar- riving at the Port	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total number of vessels carrying aliens—47 vessels inwards, 36 outwards=83.

Total number of aircraft carrying aliens—8 aircraft inwards, 7 outwards=15.

Number of vessels dealt with by Medical Inspector—Nil.

Number of aircraft dealt with by Medical Inspector—Nil.

III Water Supply:

(a) and (b) For Port and Shipping:—

The water supply for the port and shipping is taken from the mains which supply the city and the surrounding districts of Belfast.

The supply is controlled by the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners who have hydrants on all quays and wharves.

(c) Water Boats:—

There are no water-boats at the port.

IV Port Sanitary Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948:

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declaration of Health Forms:—

Declaration of Health forms, as recommended by the Association of Sea and Air Port Health Authorities of the British Isles are in use at the Port. Special instructions relative to the Port of Belfast are given on the fourth page and a supply of these forms is distributed to H. M. Customs Officers, and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners for the use of the Pilotage service.

A Declaration of Health form signed by the Master and countersigned by the ship's surgeon (where one is carried) is received from each vessel arriving at the port from a foreign port. The Declaration of Health form is received by the Customs Officer or the Port Sanitary Officer on the arrival of the vessel. The answers to the questions contained in the Declaration are scrutinised and supplementary questions asked.

In cases where the Customs Officer first boards the vessel and the Declaration of Health is satisfactory, pratique is granted.

If the Declaration of Health is not satisfactory, the circumstances are immediately reported to the Port Medical Officer, who makes investigations before passengers or crew are allowed to land.

Vessels arriving at the port are required to display the appropriate quarantine signals as laid down in the regulations.

2. Boarding of Vessels on Arrival:—

All vessels arriving from a foreign port are boarded on arrival by an Officer of H.M. Customs and an Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority.

3. Notification to the Authority of Inward Vessels requiring special attention (Wireless messages, land signal stations, information from Pilots, Customs Officers etc.):—

Arrangements for the transmission of wireless messages from inward bound vessels requiring special attention under the regulations have been made with the various shipping companies and agents in Belfast. Under the arrangements the shipping companies receive the wireless message required under Article 7 and forward the information to the Port Medical Officer.

Alternatively, or in addition, wireless messages are received direct by the Port Sanitary Authority, the telegraphic address "**Portelth Belfast**" having been registered for this purpose.

No land signalling system is in operation.

Close co-operation exists between the Port Sanitary Authority and the Officers of H.M. Customs and notification of vessels requiring special attention is received from the latter.

4. Mooring Stations Designated under Article 10:—

(a) Within the Docks:— With the concurrence of H.M. Customs and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners, the ordinary places of mooring, discharge or loading in relation to inward vessels from foreign ports, have been designated "mooring stations" within the docks.

(b) Outside the Docks:—The outside mooring station is situate at Carrick Roads about three-and-a-half miles from the nearest point of the docks. Infected or suspected ships or other ships which may be unhealthy are required to proceed to established mooring stations.

5. Particulars of any Standing Exemptions from the provisions of Article 14:—

Standing exemptions from detention under Article 14 are granted

(a) In the case of vessels arriving from a port or seaboard included in the list referred to in Article 11, unless such port or seaboard has been specially referred to in the current list, or special instructions have been issued in regard to same.

(b) In the case of vessels having on board one of the common infectious diseases, such as scarlet fever, measles, tuberculosis, mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough, influenza or malaria.

During the year ten contacts of smallpox whose arrival in Belfast had been advised by other Sea and Air Port Health Authorities, were kept under surveillance for the requisite period.

6. Experience of working of Article 16 : Restriction on boarding or leaving vessels:—

In carrying out the provisions of this Article during the year no difficulty arose, and it was not necessary to require passengers to furnish names and destinations etc., as there was no case of infectious disease on board any vessel arriving at the port which required this procedure.

7. Arrangements made for:—

(a) Premises and Waiting Rooms for Medical Examination:—

There are at present no premises set apart as a Customs Examination Hall, waiting rooms, and rooms for the Medical examination of passengers, as there are no direct passenger sailings from or to foreign ports. Passengers who arrive by direct cargo steamer from foreign ports are examined, if necessary, on board the vessel.

(b) Arrangements for Cleansing and Disinfection:—

After the removal of a case or cases of infectious disease, disinfection of the vessel is carried out by the Port Sanitary Officers. Clothing and other effects are removed to the Health Committee's Disinfecting Station, Laganbank Road, where they are subjected to steam pressure disinfection. The cleansing of persons is also carried out at this station where suitable facilities have been provided for this purpose.

(c) Temporary Accommodation:—

None provided.

(d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Yellow Fever, and other Infectious Diseases:—

The Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority make provision for the reception of cases of infectious disease at the Northern Ireland Fever Hospital at Purdysburn.

Separate premises situated in the hospital grounds, but self-contained and isolated from the other hospital buildings, are available for the reception of cases of smallpox.

(e) Ambulance Transport:—

The Port makes use of the facilities provided for ambulance transport in the City by the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority.

(f) The Supervision of Contacts:—

When contacts of infectious disease are members of the crew, they are kept under supervision by the Port Medical Officer. In the case of passengers or crew landing, their destinations are ascertained. Should they proceed to a place outside Belfast, the Medical Officer of the relevant district is notified.

8. Arrangements for Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague:—

Bacteriological and pathological examination of rats for plague is carried out by arrangement with the Director of Laboratory Services, Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations:—

All other bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out by arrangement with the Director of Laboratory Services, Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority.

10. Arrangements for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases amongst Sailors under International Agreements:—

Upon the arrival of vessels in the port, information is given to the Master as to arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases amongst sailors. Pamphlets are left on board which give the location and time of the V.D. Clinics. The pamphlets give warning of the dangers of the disease. Every encouragement is given for attendance at any of the following Clinics:—

The Royal Victoria Hospital.
The Mater Infirmorum Hospital

When continuation of treatment at other ports is necessary, the Sailor's Form V44 (Revised) is filled in by the Medical Officer in charge of the V.D. Clinic giving full particulars of the treatment given.

11. Arrangements for the Interment of the Dead:—

All arrangements for the interment of the dead are attended to by the Shipping Companies.

12. Other matters, if any, Requiring or Receiving Attention:—

None.

TABLE C

Cases of Infectious Sickness Landed from Vessels Including Coastwise Vessels

DISEASE	Number of Cases during 1953		Number of Vessels Concerned	Average number of cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Tuberculosis ...	33	—	19	12
Food Poisoning ...	—	4	2	—
Influenza ...	—	4	4	2
Pneumonia ...	—	1	1	—
Scabies ...	—	3	2	1
Tonsillitis ...	—	1	1	1

TABLE D

Cases of Infectious Sickness Occurring on Vessels during the Voyage but disposed of prior to Arrival

DISEASE	Number of Cases during 1953		Number of Vessels Concerned	Average number of cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Jaundice ...	—	1	1	—

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, or Typhus Fever occurred, and no plague-infested rats were discovered during the year.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS

1. Steps taken for Detection of Rodent Plague:—

(a) In Ships in Port:—All vessels arriving from ports where plague is endemic are boarded by the Port Sanitary Officer as soon as possible after berthing. Enquiries are made as to the prevalence of rats on board, and as to whether any sick or dead rats were found during the voyage. The vessels are then inspected to ascertain the degree of rat infestation, and are periodically inspected during the time they remain in Port, in order to ascertain if any dead rats have been found in the cargo.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses etc. in the vicinity of the Port:—Instructions are given to the owners, occupiers and employees on the quays that any rats caught or killed should be given to the Port Sanitary Officer who will forward them for bacteriological examination.

2. Measures taken to Prevent the Passage of Rats between Ship and Shore:—

All vessels arriving from foreign ports are required to affix ratguards to all moorings and maintain them so fixed during the time they are in port. It is also recommended that the gangway or other means of communication with the Shore should be raised at least eighteen inches from the ground.

3. Methods of Deratting Ships, etc.:—

(a) Ships:—Deratting of ships is carried out by fumigation with Hydrogen Cyanide.

The fumigation is carried out by contractors under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officers, the minimum concentration being two ounces per thousand cubic feet, with a minimum of two hours exposure.

(b) Premises in the vicinity of the Docks, Quays, etc.:—The various Shipping Companies, and occupiers of premises in the vicinity of the docks carry out at the request of the Port Medical Officer, such works as may be necessary for the extermination of rats. Notices are issued if necessary under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 and are served on the occupiers of the premises.

During the year the Belfast Harbour Commissioners renewed their contract with a local firm, who are engaged in rat and pest disinfection. This firm has been putting down poisoned baits in the sheds under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners with effective results and a marked reduction in the rat population.

4. Measures taken for Detection of Rats in Ships and on Shore:—

(a) In Ships:—Vessels arriving in the Port are inspected by the Port Sanitary Officers who ascertain whether or not they are infested with rats, and if so to what extent.

(b) On Shore:—Stores in the vicinity of the docks are inspected regularly for the detection of rats. Damage caused by rats to goods in stores was very little during the year.

5. Rat Proofing:—

(a) Extent to which Docks, Wharves, Warehouses, etc., are Ratproof:—

The docks and wharves on the County Antrim side of the Port are so constructed as to be as nearly ratproof as possible. The floors of the sheds and warehouses and the roadways leading thereto are constructed of concrete or granite setts laid on concrete.

On the County Down side the wharves are mostly erected on piles and these afford a certain amount of harbourage, but as these wharves are used principally for the discharge of coal, ores, steel, etc., they are not so attractive to rats as those wharves where grain and foodstuffs are landed and stored.

(b) Action to Extend Ratproofing:—

(1) In Ships:—Efforts are directed towards sealing vulnerable places such as provision stores and pantries where food is kept. This is generally done by encasing with sheet-metal and closing the means of access for rats between one apartment and another.

(2) On Shore:—Periodical inspections are made by the Port Sanitary Officers to see that the various premises in the vicinity of the docks are kept in good condition.

Most owners and occupiers of the premises are aware of the damage caused by rats to merchandise, and take every precaution to prevent the access of rats to their premises.

Where no such precautions are taken notices under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 are served on the owners or occupiers concerned.

Number of Rats Destroyed during the year

TABLE E

(1) On Vessels

Species	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black ...	2	3	—	—	37	—	2	—	1	—	26	2	73
Brown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Species not recorded ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Examined ...	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	9
Infected with Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE F

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves, Warehouses

Species	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown ...	—	2	2	7	6	—	—	3	2	6	—	10	38
Species not recorded ...	13	6	4	2	4	—	9	3	1	12	6	2	62
Examined ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infected with Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The number of rats destroyed in the docks, wharves, etc., as recorded in Table F refers to those which come to the notice of the Port Sanitary Officers.

The sheds and stores on the Harbour Commissioners Estates, those of the Ship Building Yards, and the Belfast Corporation Harbour Power Station, are baited regularly by private firms under contract and information on the degree of infestation and destruction of rats is not supplied to the Port Sanitary Authority.

TABLE G

Measures of rat destruction on plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels or vessels from Plague-infected ports arriving during the year.

Total number of such vessels arriving	Number of such vessels fumigated with S02	Number of Rats killed	Number of such vessels fumigated with HCN	Number of Rats Killed	Number of such vessels on which trapping, poisoning, etc., were employed	Number of Rats Killed	Number of such vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not employed
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE H

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

Nett Tonnage	Number of Ships	No. of Deratting Certificates Issued				Total	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
		After fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.			
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur				
Ships up to 300 tons	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Ships from 301 to 1,000 tons	18	2	—	—	—	2	16	18
Ships from 1,001 to 3,000 tons	6	3	—	—	—	3	3	6
Ships from 3,001 to 10,000 tons	25	7	—	—	—	7	18	25
Ships over 10,000 tons	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTAL	54	12	—	—	—	12	42	54

VI Hygiene of Crews' Spaces:

TABLE J

Classification of Nuisances:

Nationality of Vessel	Number Inspected during 1953	Defects of Original construction	Structural Defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	1,716	1	95	320
Other Nationalities	364	—	17	68

Defects were found as follows:—

Defects of Original Construction:—

	British	Other Nationalities
Tiling to Bathroom	1	—

Defects due to wear and tear:—

Defective decks	14	1
Defective skylights	1	—
Defective portlights	19	3
Defective w.c. basins	3	—
Defective w.c. joints	6	2
Defective w.c. flush and valves	8	1
Defective w.c. seats	—	3
Defective washbasins	6	—
Defective stoves (cooking)	1	1
Defective stove pipes	10	—
Defective galley stove	3	—
Defective heating stoves	10	—
Defective sink	—	1
Defective ventilation	3	2
Defective radiators	1	3
Defective doors	3	—
Defective waste pipes	2	—
Defective w.c. discharge pipe	1	—
Defective drinking water filters	4	—

Defects due to other causes:—

Quarters, washplaces, and galleys required cleaning	93	27
Waterclosets required cleaning	83	16
Quarters, washplaces, galleys, storerooms and w.c. apartments required painting ...	48	7
Choked waterclosets	—	2
Scupperpipes required cleaning	11	3
Vermin, etc.	18	11
Bilges required cleaning (attended to during refit)	24	—
Water tanks required cleaning (attended to during refit)	43	—
Accumulation of refuse (no bins provided) ...	—	2

VII. FOOD INSPECTION

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1948, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1937 and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1927-1940.

During the year all sheds and warehouses at the Port, where food is landed or stored, were inspected regularly for the detection of unsound food.

Unsound Food

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Cake (mixed) ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	2	4
Corned Meat ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	6
Currants ... ..	...	...	...	13	11	0	0
Fish (mixed) ... ..	...	...	...	—	1	1	0
Tea ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Bacteriological Examination:—

1. 1 Tin Red Cherries—Satisfactory.

No milk is imported, but large quantities of fresh milk are exported to the Cross Channel ports by the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.

2. Shellfish:—Information respecting any shellfish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority, stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Port Medical Officer, liable to pollution:—

There are no layings of shellfish within the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority.

Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1936, or the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts (Northern Ireland).

Under the Belfast Corporation Act, 1930, it is an offence to gather any shellfish within the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority. Posters are exhibited in the vicinity of the Port Area during the summer months, warning the public against the gathering of shellfish.

RAINFALL IN INCHES FOR THE YEAR

						1952	1953
January	...	...	...	..	...	4.73	1.78
February	...	...	...	...	...	1.04	1.61
March	...	...	...	...	...	1.61	.41
April	...	...	...	...	...	1.77	2.09
May	...	...	...	...	...	1.25	2.49
June	...	...	...	..	...	3.19	1.53
July	...	...	...	...	...	2.19	6.39
August	...	...	...	...	...	6.16	3.30
September	...	...	...	...	...	2.26	2.67
October	...	...	...	...	...	4.39	2.17
November	...	...	...	...	...	3.42	4.23
December	...	...	...	...	...	5.05	3.62
						—	—
						37.06	32.29

Data kindly supplied by the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners. Readings taken at Oldpark Station. Gauge at 200 feet O.D.

Analysis of Legal Proceedings

Proceedings	Offence	Summonses	Orders	Fines
Belfast Corporation Act, 1930	Failed to provide ashbin ...	10	—	£0 1 0
Belfast Corporation (General Powers) Act, 1948 ...	Sold fish and chips in unregistered premises ...	1	—	2 0 0
Factories Acts (Northern Ireland), 1938 and 1949 ...	Contravention of ...	9	—	0 10 0
Merchandise Marks Acts and Orders ...	Exposed for sale imported raw tomatoes not bearing an indication of origin ...	9	—	5 5 0
" "	Used false trade description to imported raw tomatoes ...	1	—	0 10 0
Public Health Acts, 1878 to 1907 ...	Failed to abate nuisances ...	1,873	176	39 10 0
" "	Water closets not supplied with sufficient water for flushing purposes ...	77	—	18 10 1
" "	Disobedience of a Magistrate's Order ...	46	—	165 5 4
Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations...	Sold foods containing prohibited preservatives ...	21	—	58 0 0
" "	Sold foods containing preservatives in excess of amount allowed ...	11	—	23 0 0
Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948 ...	Used room as a living room in which food was stored with a view to future sale ...	12	—	56 15 0
" "	Prepared, stored and sold food in a room which communicated directly with a sleeping place ...	2	—	50 0 0
" "	Failed to take all reasonable precautions to prevent contamination of food ...	5	—	2 10 0
" "	Failed to observe due cleanliness of rooms ...	2	—	5 5 0
" "	Failed to observe due cleanliness of person whilst engaged in the preparation of food ...	1	—	0 10 0
" "	Failed to provide adequate washing facilities for the use of persons engaged in preparation of food...	4	—	3 10 0
" "	Failed to take all reasonable precautions to protect food against contamination by animals and dirt ...	15	—	14 0 0
" "	Failed to secure due cleanliness of vehicle conveying food ...	2	—	12 0 0
Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878 and Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1890 ...	Sold or exposed for sale food unfit for the food of man which was seized and destroyed by Order of Resident Magistrate ...	13	—	57 0 0
Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878 and Public Health Act, 1896 ...	Obstruction of an Order ...	2	—	1 5 0

Proceedings	Offence	Summonses	Orders	Fines
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	Failed to take all reasonable steps to destroy rats on premises ...	1	—	3 0 0
Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899	Adulteration of food-stuffs ...	5	—	7 10 0
" "	Butter confectionery deficient in butter fat	3	—	P.O.A.
Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899 and Intoxicating Liquor Act (Northern Ireland), 1923	Adulteration of spirits ...	2	—	5 10 0
Sale of Ice Cream Acts (Northern Ireland), 1937 to 1950	Sold Ice Cream in unregistered premises	5	—	2 2 0
" "	Sold Ice Cream which failed to comply with the prescribed standard as to the absence of coliform organisms ...	3	—	6 10 0
" "	Sold Ice Cream which failed to comply with the prescribed standard as to the bacteriological count	1	—	5 0 0
The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953 ...	Sold Ice Cream deficient in fat ...	3	—	19 0 0
Shops Act (Northern Ireland), 1946	Contravention of	8	—	40 0 0

The Health Committee recognise more than ever before that to allow remediable insanitary conditions to continue is not only dangerous but is definitely wasteful to property as well. Further, they generally realise their responsibility for providing and maintaining sanitary services of the highest efficiency within their economic limits. With this end in view they gave permission to the Medical Officer of Health to recruit and train ten suitable male persons. It is hoped that on conclusion of training and after qualifying, these persons will be adequately equipped to perform the many and varied duties of a Sanitary Officer which now come within the scope of the modern Sanitary Department.

The statistical tables and comments in the body of the report give some indication of the amount and variety of work done in a loyal and conscientious manner. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Sanitary Officers and Clerical Staff for their understanding and sympathetic co-operative spirit which has been shown throughout the year.

JOSEPH WALKER, M.S.I.A.

REPORT OF THE CITY VETERINARIAN FOR THE YEAR 1953.

Report of the work at the Belfast Municipal Abattoir in connection with Ante-mortem and Post-mortem examinations of animals slaughtered for Human Food.

TABLE 1

Showing by months the number and description of animals slaughtered during the year.

	Cows	Heifers	Bulls	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Pigs
January	96	471	1	4,271	372	2,858	812	711
February	27	338	0	3,551	180	1,326	751	901
March	53	219	2	2,198	364	873	759	621
April	21	206	1	1,788	113	1,940	734	1,109
May	42	117	0	1,205	34	12,506	934	651
June	59	357	0	2,483	15	11,939	337	747
July	303	514	2	3,027	11	9,444	40	860
August	254	663	3	2,803	98	10,230	15	1,335
September	169	656	2	3,583	349	9,440	13	1,036
October	113	458	0	3,456	510	10,310	50	1,751
November	322	508	1	3,449	164	9,211	113	1,774
December	330	716	4	3,825	88	9,038	120	1,230
TOTALS	1,789	5,223	16	35,639	2,298	89,115	4,678	12,726

Compared with the year 1952, Cattle show an increase of 1,077; Sheep and Lambs a decrease of 13,016; Pigs an increase of 4,024; and Goats an increase of 1,599.

TABLE 2

Showing the number of carcasses condemned from all causes during the year 1953 as being un-sound and unfit for human food, as compared with the year 1952.

	1953	1952
Cows	114	518
Heifers	75	55
Bulls	—	1
Bullocks	82	60
Calves	366	998
Sheep and Lambs	209	149
Goats	48	144
Pigs	286	236
Totals	1,180	2,161

The percentage of carcasses condemned from all causes at the Public Abattoir during the year 1953 was 1.65 per cent.

TABLE 3

Showing the different diseased conditions which involved seizure and total destruction of carcasses in the Public Abattoir during the year 1953.

	CATTLE				Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Total
	Cows	Heifers	Bullocks	Calves				
Abscesses	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	6
Cysticercus Bovis	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	4
Decomposed	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Dropsical and Emaciated	10	3	6	104	72	43	46	284
Enteritis	—	—	—	7	—	—	3	10
Fevered	15	1	8	92	56	3	95	270
Fibrosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gangrene	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Injured	7	1	2	5	36	—	6	57
Immature	—	—	—	127	—	—	—	127
Jaundice	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	4
Joint-Ill	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	17
Neoplasms	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pleurisy and Peritonitis	1	1	2	—	7	—	10	21
Pyaemia	5	2	4	—	1	—	7	19
Red Water	5	5	3	—	—	—	—	13
Septicaemia	8	2	4	2	20	1	33	70
Swine Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Septic Mastitis	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Septic Metritis	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Septic Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Septic Pneumonia	—	1	1	3	10	—	17	32
Tuberculosis	56	57	49	6	—	1	57	226
Uraemia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	114	75	82	366	209	48	286	1,180

In addition to the above summary, there were 34 tons, 4 cwts., 3 qrs., 12 lb. of Injured Beef; 6 tons, 16 cwts., 0 qrs., 24 lb. other Causes, (Tuberculosis, etc.); 1 ton, 9 cwts., 2 qrs., 22 lb. of Mutton, and 12 tons, 18 cwts., 1 qr., 13 lb. of Pork seized as being unsound and unfit for Human Food.

TABLE 4

Showing comparison between Tuberculosis and other diseases as causes of condemnation of carcasses of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir during the year 1953.

Tuberculosis

	CATTLE			Sheep Lambs	Goats	Pigs	Total
	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves				
Total Seizure	56	106	6	—	1	57	226
Partial Seizure	84	234	—	—	—	212	530
Total and Partial	140	340	6	—	1	269	756

Other Diseased Conditions

	CATTLE			Sheep Lambs	Goats	Pigs	Total
	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves				
Total Seizure	58	51	260	209	47	229	854
Partial Seizure	111	2,976	12	1,117	3	1,854	6,073
Total and Partial	169	3,027	272	1,326	50	2,083	6,927

It will be seen from the above table that tuberculosis in cattle is a most fruitful source of total seizure, accounting for about 59 per cent of the seizures, as compared with other diseased conditions.

TABLE 5

Showing the percentage by age periods of the animals slaughtered and condemned at the Public Abattoir as suffering from Tuberculosis.

SPECIES	BY AGE							
	From one month to one Year	Per Cent	One to Three Years	Per Cent	From three to six Years	Per Cent	Over six Years	Per Cent
Cows	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	100
Heifers	1	1·75	42	73·68	14	24·56	—	—
Bulls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bullocks	—	—	—	—	49	100·0	—	—
Calves	6	100·0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	57	100·0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goats	—	—	1	100·0	—	—	—	—

TABLE 6

Showing the percentage by condition of the animals slaughtered and condemned at the Public Abattoir during this year as suffering from Tuberculosis.

SPECIES	BY CONDITION							
	Good		Fair		Indifferent		Poor	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Cows	—	—	19	33·94	23	41·07	14	25·0
Heifers	1	1·75	55	96·49	1	1·75	—	—
Bulls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bullocks	1	2·04	48	97·95	—	—	—	—
Calves	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	—	—	57	100·0	6	100·0	—	—
Goats	—	—	—	—	1	100·0	—	—

TABLE 7

Showing the number of Diseased Organs seized and destroyed during the year 1953 as being unsound and unfit for human food. (The figures for the preceding year are given for comparison).

	1952	1953	Increase	Decrease
Beef :				
Heads	429	865	436	—
Tongues	794	806	12	—
Hearts	429	275	—	154
Lungs	4,950	2,522	—	2,428
Livers	16,967	11,076	—	5,891
Stomachs	770	489	—	281
Udders	3,197	1,067	—	2,130
Mesenteries	770	438	—	332
Omentum	770	438	—	332
Diaphragm	18	15	—	3
Kidneys	27	64	37	—
Mutton :				
Hearts	12	28	16	—
Lungs	264	393	129	—
Liver	8,878	5,486	—	3,392
Kidneys	10	8	—	2
Pork :				
Heads	240	512	272	—
Tongues	240	512	272	—
Hearts	186	212	26	—
Lungs	285	752	467	—
Liver	263	334	71	—
Kidneys	28	38	10	—
Goat :				
Liver	74	48	—	26

The above does not include the viscera of animals totally destroyed.

TABLE 8

Showing percentage incidence of generalised Tuberculosis in animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir during the year 1953. The percentage for the previous year is given for comparison.

	1952	1953
Cows	1.37	3.13
Other Cattle ... ..	.16	.27
Cattle (all classes) ... ..	.38	.37
Calves ... ..	.07	.12
Pigs ... ..	.45	.43

TABLE 9

Table showing the amount of Beef, Mutton, Pork, etc., presented by the prevention officers of the Ministry of Food and others for examination at the Abattoir.

BEEF	...	...	23 Sides, 66 Quarters and 206 Cuts were examined : of these 4 tons, 17 cwts., 3 qrs., 22 lbs. were seized and destroyed.
MUTTON	...	...	42 Carcases and 62 Cuts were examined : seized and destroyed, 6 cwts., 2 qrs., 6 lbs.
PORK	...	...	31,836 Carcases examined : seized and destroyed, 823 Carcases, and 20 tons, 16 cwts., 2 qrs., 7 lbs.
VEAL	...	...	Carcases examined : 1.
FOWL	...	...	Examined 298 : seized and destroyed, 298.
TINNED MEATS	...	...	Examined 359 : seized and destroyed, 359.
FISH AND FOWL MARKETS	...	...	Seized or surrendered : 4 tons, 11 cwts., 3 qrs., 10 lbs. of Herrings, Kippers, etc.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

During the year cysticercus bovis infections were shown to be present to the extent of .76 per cent. of all bovines slaughtered at the Abattoir : compared with the previous year 1952, this shows an increase of .31 per cent.

During the year there were four instances in which the disease existed in a generalised form (Table 3), the parasite being widely distributed throughout the carcass musculature. In all other instances the parasite was confined to the masseter muscles of the animal.

This parasite is of great importance from a meat inspection aspect as it is communicable to man if the meat is eaten in raw or improperly cooked state, giving rise to the tape worm "Taenia Saginata."

SERVICES RENDERED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS

During the year a general supervision of the health of the animals of the several Committees of the Corporation was exercised. Fortunately most of the work during the year was in the nature of preventive Medicine.

There are no private Slaughter Houses in the City, so that all animals to be slaughtered in Belfast for human consumption must be brought to the public Abattoir.

The Abattoir is situated in Stewart Street, adjacent to the Cattle Market and Cattle Yards.

The Slaughter of Animals Act (Northern Ireland), 1932, makes it compulsory for all animals slaughtered for human food to be stunned by means of a mechanically-operated instrument and rendered insensible to pain until death supervenes.

The Abattoir is designed so that the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs is carried out in three different departments. The lairages for the different animals are quite convenient to the killing booths, yet the animals cannot see their fellows being slaughtered. The cooling halls are situated quite close to the slaughter halls and all carcasses can be easily conveyed there by means of an overhead rail system.

The cattle slaughter halls are a combination of the open halls and booth system.

The sheep unit consists of two extensive slaughter halls with lairages and cooling halls attached.

An extensive cold storage plant is attached to the Abattoir, and during the summer months this is utilised to a great extent by the trade.

According to the By-Laws, all persons employed in the slaughtering and dressing of animals must be licensed and during the year 67 such licences were issued.

All the larger animals at the Abattoir are stunned by means of a Cash Captive Bolt Gun prior to bleeding, and in the case of smaller animals an electrical apparatus known as an Electrolethaler is used.

To my staff for their loyal support and manner in which they carried out their duties at all time, I say, thanks.

ALEX. McLEAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., D.V.H.

REPORT OF SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER, MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH DIVISION, FOR THE YEAR 1953.

Notification of Births Act

The total number of births notified as occurring in the area during the year was 10,872, and in addition 7 were either discovered by Health Visitors or notified by the Registrars of Births, making a total of 10,879. Of these 5,653 were males, 5,224 were females, 2 sex unknown ; 316 were still-births.

These were classified as follows:—

In Hospitals	...	...	...	...	6,541
In Private Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	484
In other Institutions	...	...	...	...	181
At Home	...	...	...	...	3,464
At Home (Hosp. Dist. Cases)...	...	...	...	...	209

Infant Mortality

During the year 380 children died under the age of 12 months giving an infant mortality rate of 45. The rate for the previous year was 47.

Prematurity, diarrhoea and enteritis, and pneumonia accounted for 53.9 per cent. of the infant mortality.

Table A shows the number of deaths from these conditions and the death rate per 1,000 registered births during the past ten years.

Table B shows the infant mortality grouped according to cause and sex.

Table C shows the infant mortality by age groups.

Neo-Natal Mortality

Deaths occurring during the first month of life numbered 183, giving a neo-natal rate for the year of 21. The rate for the previous year was 25.

Maternal Mortality

The number of women who died from pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperal state during the year was 6, giving a maternal mortality rate of 0.7 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 1.06. Table D shows the Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live births analysed according to the cause of death. It is pleasing to note that there were no deaths from sepsis.

Health Visiting

38 Health Visitors were employed at the end of the year. The difficulty in finding a sufficient number of suitable applicants for the work continues, and the staff is still under establishment.

While the routine visiting of infants and young children forms the bulk of the Health Visitors' work, an increasing amount of their time is being devoted to the follow-up of children discharged from hospital. They also supply many reports as to the suitability of home conditions, etc., prior to the discharge of delicate infants from hospital. In this connection the Health Visiting contacts formed with the hospitals are proving more and more advantageous both to the hospitals and to the general work of the department.

The Staff again had the opportunity of attending a number of refresher Lectures during the year and two temporary health visitors were seconded to the Health Visitors' Training Course during the year.

Good liason was maintained with the Welfare Department and with the Voluntary Hostels.

Two members of the Health Visiting Staff were invited to attend one or two meetings of the Child Welfare Council Study Group and from their practical experience made a contribution to the discussions on several problems before the Group.

A Health Visitor also lectured at a refresher course organised by the Nursery Schools Association.

Visits paid during the year were as follows:—

- (1). To expectant mothers : First visits 918 ; Re-visits 1,019 ; Total 1,937.
- (2). To children under one year of age : First visits 8,958 ; Re-visits 56,891 ; Total 65,849.
- (3). To children between 1 and 5 years : 52,528.

Ante-Natal Clinics

As the great majority of the expectant mothers attending the Antenatal Clinics make arrangements for their confinement in hospital the Medical Officer maintains close contact with the hospitals. At the Royal Maternity Hospital she also assists at one of the Antenatal sessions.

Specimens of bloods are taken for examination for Group, Rh factor, Wasserman, etc., and arrangements have been made whereby private practitioners can refer their cases to the clinics for these tests.

Instruction in Gas and Air Analgesia and in relaxation has been continued in combination with a special series of Mothercraft talks. These are open to all antenatal cases irrespective of whether they are attending for antenatal supervision or not.

Clinics and Attendances :

			1st Visit	Re-Visits
Spier's Place, Shankill Road (Monday)	...	...	130	617
Grovefield School, Mount Street (Monday)	...	...	166	899
Mersey Street Church Hall	...	...	130	708
Mountcollyer Street	...	...	136	723
Spier's Place, Shankill Road (Wednesday)	...	...	198	768
Oldpark Unionist Hall, Avoca Street	...	...	109	713
St. Paul's Hall, Hawthorne Street	...	...	209	1,021
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			1,078	5,449

Child Health Centres

The number of sessions provided at the end of the year was 33 per week. With a growth in the numbers attending the Woodstock Centre it was found necessary to hold an additional session on Tuesday afternoons.

The attendance has been rapidly increasing at the new centres opened last year at Sydenham and Highfield, and more satisfactory accommodation is badly needed in these new housing districts. The total attendances at Clinics for the City as a whole continued to grow, and the final figures were several thousand over those for the previous year.

The talks to mothers with film strip illustrations were continued during the winter months, and special stress was again placed on the prevention of accidents. In addition members of the Health Visiting Staff addressed meetings of several organisations on Health topics.

Our thanks are again due to the members of the Voluntary Workers Association for their valuable assistance throughout the year; their extra efforts in connection with the Coronation Celebrations were much appreciated.

Centres and Attendances:

						Under 1 year	Over 1 year
Highfield	(Monday)	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,100	1,458
York Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,070	718
Ariel Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,040	461
Bloomfield	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,679	1,122
Donegall Road	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,372	1,314
Glenard	(Tuesday)	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,225	758
Havelock Place	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,993	796
Mersey Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,292	833
Donegall Road	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,685	1,470
Falls Road	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,222	1,403
Ariel Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,276	1,609
Avoca Street	(Wednesday)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,754	325
Bread Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,878	1,744
Ligoniel	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,808	500
Seaview	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,531	1,218
Woodstock	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,142	1,293
Palmerston Road	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,253	718
Avoca Street	(Thursday)	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,829	634
Kimberley Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,179	959
Greencastle	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,058	1,440
Mountcollyer	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,933	731
Spier's Place	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,307	533
Susan Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,419	1,778
Woodstock	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,820	617
Malone	(Friday)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,338	958
Ariel Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,739	292
Bread Street	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,541	1,302
Joanmount	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,781	339
Spier's Place	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,011	589
Sydenham	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,525	1,466
Woodstock	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,633	1,373
Falls Road	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,159	2,157
Total Attendances						102,592	32,908

Home Help Scheme

The Home Help work continued along previous lines being mainly devoted to Maternity cases and cases of sickness among mothers and small children. A subsidiary panel continued to deal with tuberculosis cases by arrangement with the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority. Arrangements continued with the Welfare Authority for the provision of casual home helps for the care of the aged and handicapped persons.

Number of Home Helps employed at end of the year:

(i) Full-time 174; (ii) Part-time 61.

Number of cases attended during the year:

(i) Maternity 707; (ii) Others 391; (iii) Total 1,098.

Mother and Baby Homes
(Ante and Post-Natal Hostels)

Name and address of Home or Hostel	NUMBER OF BEDS						Average length of stay	
	Ante-Natal	Post Natal	Labour	Isolation	Maternity (excluding labour and isolation)	Cots	Ante-Natal	Post Natal
(a) Hopedene	3	11	—	—	—	11	4-6 weeks	3-4 months
(b) Thorndale	8	16	2	2	17	16	5-6 weeks	22 weeks

The total number of City cases admitted during the year to these hostels was 25.

These hostels are in receipt of a grant from the Health Committee.

Residential Nurseries

Name and address of Nursery	Whether long stay or short stay	Number of Beds provided at the end of year				
		Aged 0-9 mths.	10 mth.-2 years	Aged 2-5	Girls over 5	Boys over 5
Glendhu Hostel, Holywood Road	Short Stay	6	2	5	2	7
(A voluntary Hostel in receipt of a grant from the Health Committee).						

221 children resident in Belfast were admitted to the Hostel during the year.

Communicable Diseases

	(1) Ophthalmia Neonatorum		(2) Pemphigus Neonatorum		(3) Puerperal Fever		(4) Puerperal Pyrexia	
	Dom. Confinements	Instit. Confinements	Dom. Confinements	Instit. Confinements	Dom. Confinements	Instit. Confinements	Dom. Confinements	Instit. Confinements
Number of cases NOTIFIED during year	2	6	—	—	—	—	5	37
Number of cases visited by Officers of the Local Authority	2	5	—	—	—	—	5	33
Number of cases removed to hospitals	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

In all of the above cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum the vision appeared to be unimpaired at the end of the treatment.

Midwives

	Domiciliary Midwives	No. in Inst. other than Hospitals	Midwives in Hospitals	Midwives in Nursing Homes	Total
1. Total number of Midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority	106	—	110	19	235
(a) Employed by the Local Supervising Authority (Part Time)	69	—	—	—	—
(b) Solely in private practice	37	—	—	—	—

Number of cases in which Medical Aid was summoned during the year under Section 22 of the Midwives (Ireland) Act, 1918, by a midwife:—

(i) For domiciliary cases	22
(ii) For cases in Institutions other than Hospitals	12
Total	34

Six midwives were suspended for short periods during the year in order to prevent the spread of infection.

Midwifery

Allowances to cover uniform, laundry and travelling are granted to Midwives on the Domiciliary Panel, the uniform being that laid down by the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council. Equipment is issued on loan, and all drugs, dressings, etc., in use in their practice are supplied to the Midwives.

Special cots, etc., for the care of premature babies are also issued on loan.

Refresher lectures are arranged from time to time during the winter months.

Registration of Nursing Homes

	Number of Homes	Number of beds provided for:—		
		Maternity	Dual Purposes	Total
Homes first registered during the year	—	—	—	—
Homes on the register at the end of the year	19	60	62	122

Action during 1952:

Number of applications for registration refused	—
Number of exemptions granted	—
Number of exemptions withdrawn	—
Number of registrations cancelled	3
Number of appeals by aggrieved persons to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction	—
Number of cases in which fines were imposed	—
Number of inspections	233
Number of registered homes not inspected	—

The inspections during the year were made by the Assistant Medical Officer, the Superintendent Nursing Officer and the Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers.

In conclusion I would like to express to the members of the staff my sincere appreciation of the excellent manner in which they discharged their duties throughout the year.

H. A. WARNOCK, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

TABLE A

Showing the number of Deaths of Infants under one year from Prematurity, Diarrhoea and Enteritis, Pneumonia, Broncho-Pneumonia, and Bronchitis

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births
Prematurity	211	20.18	155	15.73	132	12.78	107	10.19	118	12.11	126	13.72	107	12.11	102	11.61	108	12.69	84	9.85
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	178	17.02	166	16.85	112	10.84	105	10.00	61	6.26	101	11.00	37	4.19	45	5.12	57	6.70	65	7.62
Pneumonia, Broncho-Pneumonia and Bronchitis	171	16.35	154	15.63	129	12.49	167	15.90	80	8.21	88	9.58	88	9.96	52	5.91	40	4.70	56	6.57

TABLE B
Infant Mortality by Causes and Sex

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Month				1-11 Months			Total under 1 Year	
	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Males	Females	Total	No.	Rate per 1,000 live births
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	0·11
Tuberculosis, other Forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis and its sequelae	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever and Streptococcal sore throat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	3	4	7	7	0·82
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	0·11
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	0·35
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1	0·11	4	1	5	6	0·70
Diabetes Mellitus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	0·23
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	0·11
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	36	18	54	54	6·33
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	0·11
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Duodenitis, Enteritis and Colitis, except Diarrhoea of the new born	—	—	—	—	44	21	65	65	7·62
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	15	17	32	3·77	5	11	16	48	5·63
Birth Injury, Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) with prematurity	25	9	34	3·98	1	—	1	35	4·10
(b) without prematurity	26	15	41	4·81	—	1	1	42	4·92
Infections of New-Born	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) with prematurity	1	2	3	0·35	—	—	—	3	0·35
(b) without prematurity	11	4	15	1·78	1	—	1	16	1·87
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) with prematurity	25	18	43	5·04	1	2	3	46	5·39
(b) without prematurity	4	5	9	1·05	2	1	3	12	1·40
All other Causes	—	3	3	0·35	15	5	20	23	2·69
Benign and unspec. neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidents	2	—	2	0·23	6	3	9	11	1·29

TABLE C
Infant Mortality (By Age Groups)

Sex	Under 1 day	1 day and less than 7 days	1-4 weeks	1-2 months	2-3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	Total	Deaths of illegitimate children
Males	44	41	25	25	25	40	32	232	19
Females	31	30	12	13	18	18	26	148	11
Total	75	71	37	38	43	58	58	380	30

TABLE D

Showing the Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births analysed according to the cause of death

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	1	0·11
Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxaemia	1	0·11
Delivery complicated by other post-partum haemorrhage	1	0·11
Delivery complicated by retained placenta	1	0·11
Puerperal Eclampsia	1	0·11
Puerperal phlebitis and thrombosis	1	0·11

TABLE E

Showing the Deaths of Children under one year old per 1,000 births each year from 1934–1953.

YEAR	Deaths per 1,000 Births	YEAR	Deaths per 1,000 Births
1934	80	1944	89
1935	112	1945	84
1936	101	1946	61
1937	94	1947	60
1938	96	1948	45
1939	85	1949	56
1940	122	1950	49
1941	91	1951	44
1942	92	1952	47
1943	111	1953	45

Home Nursing Service

The Home Nursing Staff consists of 1 Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent and 33 Queens Nurses.

There were 16 Nurses in training during the year. Ten Nurses completed their training; seven were staff candidates and three County candidates.

A District Nurses Home was opened in December, 1953 at 44 Springfield Road. There is accommodation for six District Nurses. Miss Gibbons, Q.N., was appointed Senior Nurse in charge.

The demand for the services of the District Nurse for nursing attention to patients in their own homes continues to increase. The total number of visits paid during the year was 158,613 in comparison with 143,593 in 1952.

A conference of Training Home Superintendents held in County Hall, Westminster, London in May was attended by the Superintendent.

Sick room requisites such as Dunlopillo mattresses, air cushions, bed-rests, rubber sheeting, bed-pans, etc., are sent out to patients on loan when required.

Home Nursing Service

	On Books 1/1/54	Convalescent	Died	Hospital	Removed for Other Causes	Loans	Children Nursed	Cases Attended	T. B. Cases	T. B. Visits	Cancer Cases	Cancer Visits	Diabetic Cases	Diabetic Visits	Gynaecological Cases	Gynaecological Visits	Pneumonia Cases	Pneumonia Visits	Surgical Cases	Surgical Visits	Medical Cases	Medical Visits	Total Visits
Knock	17	73	12	19	11	0	9	132	14	414	7	258	5	1,249	—	—	2	28	12	551	92	2,123	4,623
Belmont (Ballymacarrett)	25	85	27	16	13	6	3	163	6	387	12	180	1	6	—	—	19	68	16	827	109	2,828	4,296
Sydenham	33	73	24	20	3	8	7	153	17	667	10	402	4	354	4	—	6	116	13	518	99	2,706	4,813
Ballymacarrett	33	79	17	32	21	7	18	182	22	694	8	463	7	1,812	—	—	5	141	25	744	115	3,014	6,868
Short Strand (Ballymacarrett Aux.)	40	15	4	1	1	11	6	61	4	81	5	71	3	176	—	—	—	—	11	139	38	538	1,005
Bloomfield	28	108	23	38	22	20	4	219	25	644	6	383	13	943	—	—	12	94	28	589	135	2,291	4,944
Castlereagh	38	107	21	25	6	16	8	197	19	347	11	666	10	985	2	6	4	44	16	453	135	2,535	5,036
Castlereagh Aux.	34	64	31	30	9	27	8	133	5	246	9	397	2	2,671	—	—	13	140	13	911	91	3,204	7,569
Springfield	27	67	22	19	4	18	18	120	6	173	4	163	4	697	—	—	—	—	27	796	79	3,537	5,366
Springfield Aux.	17	197	25	16	18	13	12	273	26	629	21	414	16	355	—	—	19	234	86	728	105	2,006	4,366
West Circular Road	14	4	—	—	—	4	1	18	1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	4	51	12	102	171
Grosvenor Road	20	35	15	14	3	43	11	70	2	347	4	61	2	68	—	—	1	1	26	1,406	35	1,460	3,343
Falls	17	89	17	24	2	40	2	149	3	116	4	123	13	2,226	1	75	5	75	45	787	78	2,410	5,812
Falls Aux.	21	75	18	19	1	36	9	134	4	77	10	313	15	3,193	1	46	4	18	21	825	79	1,513	5,985
Ormeau Road (Cromac)	23	93	13	23	12	6	16	164	8	205	14	516	5	811	1	4	4	37	22	447	110	2,345	4,365
Markets	42	97	25	20	2	20	22	186	7	251	14	1,106	6	694	—	—	8	105	37	1,248	114	4,219	7,623
Lisburn Road (Sandy Row and Malone)	46	109	33	27	9	9	6	224	14	518	13	396	7	327	—	—	14	170	31	685	145	3,051	5,147
Sandy Row	37	95	20	20	2	63	19	151	3	128	10	430	1	1,664	—	—	7	46	18	511	112	3,485	6,264
Donegall Road	35	92	11	9	3	25	33	150	3	485	3	285	1	385	1	15	6	55	23	590	113	2,836	4,651
Donegall Road Aux.	40	176	19	30	3	14	26	268	3	165	14	539	10	1,464	—	—	9	101	11	396	221	3,776	6,441
Stranmillis	19	46	12	12	5	11	6	81	1	52	6	363	1	217	1	7	2	36	14	450	56	1,857	2,982
Antrim Road	21	56	13	8	5	6	5	103	3	385	4	101	2	738	1	16	4	64	22	1,499	67	2,234	5,037
Cavehill	34	88	27	19	13	16	18	181	16	441	13	224	4	126	1	8	—	—	51	1,347	96	1,860	4,006
New Lodge	30	83	31	15	3	16	10	162	13	764	12	448	6	1,927	—	—	8	58	14	465	109	2,197	5,859
York Road	15	76	18	20	2	23	17	131	7	227	14	1,265	2	378	—	—	7	67	13	268	87	2,469	4,684
Greencastle	26	168	14	18	6	4	50	232	36	1,432	9	452	5	693	1	10	14	153	49	588	118	1,967	5,381
Crumlin Road	23	70	28	28	14	40	12	163	13	421	11	165	6	494	1	39	7	7	22	813	108	2,245	4,184
St. Anne's	38	109	16	33	9	12	30	188	9	265	7	585	6	2,515	2	163	18	137	37	992	109	2,047	6,704
Ligoniel	30	67	18	20	5	5	14	126	11	534	7	351	2	240	—	—	8	63	38	1,367	60	1,568	4,123
Ligoniel Aux.	23	171	21	27	4	10	39	246	11	965	15	912	7	298	—	—	32	312	68	1,165	113	2,164	5,816
Smithfield	32	148	31	18	—	30	36	184	4	134	7	181	3	1,232	1	13	4	68	52	1,134	113	3,689	6,451
Smithfield Aux.	22	53	13	16	2	7	11	105	—	—	4	307	4	1,032	—	—	5	47	15	757	77	2,555	4,698
TOTALS	900	2,868	619	636	213	566	486	5,049	316	12,206	288	12,520	173	29,970	19	548	243	2,491	880	24,047	3,130	76,831	158,613

REPORT OF THE SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER, SCHOOL HEALTH DIVISION, FOR THE YEAR 1953

In presenting the report of the work of the School Health Service for the year 1953 it is satisfactory to note that the health and nutritional standard of the school children has been well maintained. There have been no serious epidemics during the year and scarlet fever, the most prevalent infectious disease, has been of a mild form. Skin diseases in general have shown a steady decline, the most common form treated in our minor ailment clinics being impetigo. Cases of scabies have been rare and happily there has been no recurrence of ringworm of the scalp to the degree experienced in 1951, and with the exception of sporadic cases at intervals throughout the year there has been no evidence of an outbreak of epidemic proportions. This is to a large extent due to the vigilance of medical officers and health visitors, who, with the co-operation of teachers, keep constant vigil in order to diagnose the disease at the earliest possible moment. Strict measures are taken to isolate suspected cases and to ensure prompt examination of all contacts and the immediate treatment of the infected child. The general cleanliness of the children is on the whole satisfactory but too many schools continue to show a high uncleanness rate, in some cases, up to 20 per cent. infestation with vermin. This entails close supervision on the part of the school health visitors and the number of home visits made by them during the year has been greatly increased as the problem tends to be a social rather than an individual one and the solution often lies in the home rather than in school.

A large part of the work of the School Health Service has again been concerned with children who are handicapped to an extent which prevents their taking full advantage of the normal educational system. By virtue of the wide medical field covered, the school doctor must be an expert in the field of epidemiology and social and mental hygiene, and have an intimate knowledge of educational matters to enable advice to be given regarding special educational treatment required. Close co-operation between all personnel who are concerned in the care and welfare of the handicapped child is essential if final decisions regarding education and treatment are to be in the highest interests of the child. Fortunately this co-operation is readily obtainable and is a contributing factor in the smooth working of this branch of the School Health Service.

The problem of the provision of satisfactory accommodation in schools is one which in many cases remains unsolved. The replacement of many unhealthy and unsuitable school buildings is long overdue, this being especially so in the case of some voluntary schools. Modern hygiene demands ample fresh air, satisfactory lighting, good ventilation and heating, adequate cloakroom space with facilities for hand washing. These facilities are still lacking in many schools and some barrack-like buildings still in use have outlived their usefulness as schools. The standards of hygiene and sanitation in schools should be at least as good as in the homes where the children live, and there is all the more need for good school buildings where homes are poor and overcrowded.

Owing to a shortage of health visiting staff it was not possible to make full use of the gramophone audiometer for the hearing testing of school children in schools during the early part of the year. Later, a continuous audiometric survey was maintained, approximately 2,500 children being tested monthly.

During the year a scheme for the B.C.G. Vaccination of selected age groups of school children was put into operation, the Belfast Health Authority acting as agents for and working under the guidance of the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority. Final assessment of the year's work shows that of the 5,254 children who received the initial tuberculin jelly skin test, 64.54% showed a positive reaction indicating that they had already passed through the stage of Primary Tuberculosis, B.C.G. Vaccination being in their case unnecessary. During the year a total of 1,612 school children successfully received B.C.G. Vaccination.

It is pleasing to report that during the year, owing to additional staff, it was possible to resume dental inspection of all children in attendance at those schools for which the Local Health Authority is responsible. Of the total number inspected 79% were found to be suffering from some form of dental defect, an incidence which is surely indicative of the great need which exists in the field of Health Education in oral hygiene and in the care of the teeth of children.

The great and outstanding need of the School Health Service remains in the lack of adequate clinic accommodation. With the exception of Cherryville Street Clinic, the renovations to which were completed comparatively recently, accommodation is inadequate and the work of the clinics is carried out in cramped and inadequate quarters. As the commitments of the School Health Service increase, e.g. increase in the number of Speech Therapy Clinics, B.C.G. Vaccination sessions and sessions for the ascertainment of handicapped children, it is increasingly difficult to find space in our clinics to adequately carry out these services.

J. McA. TAGGART, M.B., D.P.H., D.P.A..

Senior Medical Officer for Schools.

The work of the School Health Service continued during 1953 on similar lines to those detailed in previous reports.

The following details are given of the number of grant aided schools in which the Local Health Authority is responsible for the medical inspection of pupils and provision of statutory health services.

					POPULATION (Approx.)
County Primary Schools	...	...	...	= 86	37,192
Voluntary Schools under School Committees			...	= 5	1,278
Voluntary Schools under Lay Manager	...		...	= 1	211
Voluntary Schools under Roman Catholic Management				= 63	20,621
Special Schools	...	...	...	= 3	451
Secondary Schools	...	...	...	= 22	13,237
Nursery Schools	...	...	...	= 8	294

In addition, five private secondary schools with a population of 2,672 conduct their own schemes of routine medical inspection and treatment as permitted under the Education Act (N.I.) Section 42, Sub-section 6.

The medical examinations in these cases are carried out by private practitioners, the necessary literature, documents, etc., being provided by the Local Health Authority.

The number of children examined in the various groups and the types of school involved are shown in the following table.

TABLE I.

ROUTINES								Specials	Re-exam- inations	Totals
	Ages	3-6	8-9	11-12	Other Ages	14+	16+			
	Sex									
Primary and Inter.	Boys	3,306	2,537	2,509	1,196	29	1	773	5,523	15,874
	Girls	3,244	2,457	2,455	1,339	14	1	502	6,043	16,055
Prep. and Grammar	Boys	57	96	152	112	640	393	—	241	1,691
	Girls	65	77	108	101	344	309	—	232	1,236
Private Secondary	Boys	13	11	95	9	147	100	—	34	409
	Girls	23	25	66	17	76	29	—	—	236
		6,708	5,203	5,385	2,774	1,250	833	1,275	12,073	35,501

Vaccination

The following table gives details of the vaccination state of children between the ages of 3-16 years who were medically examined during the year.

TABLE II

	3-6			8-9			11-12			Other Ages			14 +			16 +		
	Exd.	Unsatis- factory	%	Exd.	Unsatis- factory	%	Exd.	Unsatis- factory	%	Exd.	Unsatis- factory	%	Exd.	Unsatis- factory	%	Exd.	Unsatis- factory	%
Primary and Intermediate	Boys	3,306	944	28.6	2,537	591	23.3	2,509	643	25.6	1,196	318	26.6	29	4	13.8	1	—
	Girls	3,244	933	28.8	2,457	588	23.9	2,455	595	24.2	1,339	370	27.6	14	5	35.7	1	—
Preparatory and Grammar	Boys	57	5	8.8	96	11	11.4	152	21	13.8	112	19	17.0	640	111	17.3	393	82
	Girls	65	13	20.0	77	16	20.8	108	15	13.9	101	25	24.7	344	65	18.9	309	53
Private Secondary	Boys	13	—	—	11	1	9.1	95	22	23.2	9	1	11.1	147	26	17.7	100	19
	Girls	23	5	21.7	25	4	16.0	66	3	4.5	17	—	—	76	11	14.5	29	3
All Schools	Boys	3,376	949	28.1	2,644	603	22.8	2,756	686	24.9	1,317	338	25.7	816	141	17.3	494	101
	Girls	3,332	951	28.5	2,559	608	23.8	2,629	613	23.3	1,457	395	27.1	434	81	18.7	339	56
Totals		6,708	1,900	28.3	5,203	1,211	23.3	5,385	1,299	24.1	2,774	733	26.4	1,250	222	17.8	833	157

Average Heights and Weights

In the accompanying tables are set forth the average heights and weights of those children in the various age groups who were examined during the year.

TABLE III
Average Heights and Weights

Boys

Ages	Number Examined			Average Height, Inches			Average Weight, lbs.		
	Public	Grammar	Private Grammar	Public	Grammar	Private Grammar	Public	Grammar	Private Grammar
4	59	5	—	41.6	42.4	—	39.8	44.8	—
5	1,880	37	6	43.1	44.8	45.3	42.4	45.1	46.1
6	1,367	15	7	45.2	48.3	47.8	44.9	49.2	50.6
7	169	11	2	46.9	50.1	51.5	48.6	57.8	62.1
8	2,121	92	6	50.0	51.3	52.6	56.2	62.8	62.8
9	416	4	5	51.3	56.4	55.8	60.1	74.0	73.9
10	27	4	3	54.2	56.9	57.2	67.3	74.2	77.5
11	1,500	91	35	55.4	58.1	58.5	75.1	79.5	81.6
12	1,009	61	60	56.7	59.4	58.6	78.2	85.6	82.6
13	1,000	97	4	57.8	62.1	63.4	80.4	98.4	114.0
14	22	537	77	59.8	64.4	65.1	102.5	106.2	114.3
15	7	103	70	65.8	67.1	67.8	117.8	121.5	117.6
16	1	321	30	67.1	68.5	68.8	126.4	130.6	135.4
17	—	62	61	—	70.2	70.1	—	135.2	137.2
18	—	6	7	—	70.3	71.2	—	139.5	139.7
19	—	4	2	—	70.8	71.4	—	140.1	141.7
Totals	9,578	1,450	375	—	—	—	—	—	—

Girls

Ages	Number Examined			Average Height, Inches			Average Weight, lbs.		
	Public	Grammar	Private Grammar	Public	Grammar	Private Grammar	Public	Grammar	Private Grammar
4	86	8	—	41.6	43.6	—	40.2	41.5	—
5	1,748	50	11	42.7	44.9	45.1	41.5	47.2	46.7
6	1,410	7	12	44.8	46.7	46.9	43.8	48.0	49.6
7	202	23	6	47.0	50.3	50.0	46.5	56.2	55.7
8	2,015	73	15	49.5	52.1	51.3	54.7	59.1	60.2
9	442	4	10	50.3	52.9	52.8	46.9	60.2	64.7
10	30	10	6	54.2	56.8	55.7	65.2	77.8	76.2
11	1,572	74	39	55.9	58.2	57.3	72.8	81.9	81.7
12	883	34	27	57.4	60.5	59.7	77.9	87.0	89.1
13	1,107	68	5	58.7	62.7	62.8	86.4	103.4	103.5
14	10	285	65	65.4	63.4	63.5	115.9	108.6	110.8
15	4	59	11	66.3	65.0	64.7	118.7	123.4	123.7
16	1	232	26	66.2	68.8	64.9	124.2	125.8	124.3
17	—	65	3	—	69.2	66.1	—	126.2	—
18	—	12	—	—	69.7	—	—	—	—
19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9,510	1,004	236	—	—	—	—	—	—

Defects Discovered at Medical Inspections:—

TABLE IV

CLASSIFICATION	NATURE OF DEFECT		No. Exd.	Defective for Treatment	Per 1,000	Defective for Observation	Per 1,000
1. Skin Disease		P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	262 51 9	13.73 20.78 14.73	88 22 —	4.61 8.96 —
2. Defects of the Eye	External Eye Disease	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	80 5 9	4.19 2.04 14.73	132 6 5	6.92 2.44 8.18
	Defective Vision	P. P.G. P.S.	12,015 2,313 567	1,673 175 69	139.24 75.66 121.69	146 196 24	12.15 84.73 42.33
	Squint	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	393 16 4	20.59 6.52 6.55	573 34 4	30.02 13.85 6.55
3. Defects of the Ear	Discharging Ear	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	136 5 7	7.12 2.04 11.46	148 7 2	7.75 2.85 3.27
	Other Diseases	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	75 3 1	3.93 1.22 1.64	39 — —	2.04 — —
	Defective Hearing (Other than above)	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	121 7 29	6.34 2.85 47.46	49 4 4	2.57 1.63 6.55
4. Defects of the Mouth, Nose and Throat	Ch. Tonsillitis	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	847 20 2	44.37 8.15 3.27	2,027 132 2	106.19 53.79 3.27
	Adenoids	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	67 — —	3.51 — —	54 2 —	2.83 0.81 —
	Ch. T. and Adenoids	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	238 1 —	12.47 0.41 —	319 6 —	16.71 2.44 —
	Neck Gland Enlarged	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	337 5 1	17.66 2.04 1.64	326 9 19	17.08 3.67 31.10
	Other Nose and Throat conditions	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	265 10 —	13.88 4.07 —	205 12 —	10.74 4.89 —
5. Defective Speech		P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	106 7 3	5.55 2.85 4.91	136 7 3	7.12 2.85 4.91
6. Defects of the Heart and Lungs	Heart Conditions	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	322 18 —	16.87 7.33 —	450 22 —	23.58 8.96 —
	Phthisis	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	1 — —	0.05 — —	1 — —	0.05 — —
	Bronchitis, etc.	P. P.G. P.S.	19,088 2,454 611	540 18 —	28.29 7.33 —	672 43 1	35.21 17.52 1.64

TABLE IV—continued

CLASSIFICATION	NATURE OF DEFECT		No. Exd.	Defective for Treatment	Per 1,000	Defective for Observation	Per 1,000
7. Constitutional Diseases	Anaemia	P.	19,088	224	11·74	236	12·36
		P.G.	2,454	2	0·81	6	2·44
		P.S.	611	—	—	—	—
	Tuberculosis of Bone and Glands, etc.	P.	19,088	3	0·16	19	1·0
		P.G.	2,454	—	—	3	1·22
		P.S.	611	—	—	—	—
	Rickets and Rickety Deformity	P.	19,088	12	0·63	6	0·31
		P.G.	2,454	—	—	3	1·22
		P.S.	611	—	—	—	—
8. Defects of the Nervous System		P.	19,088	17	0·89	45	2·36
		P.G.	2,454	4	1·63	8	3·26
		P.S.	611	2	3·27	4	6·55
9. Deformities other than due to Rickets		P.	19,088	537	28·13	228	11·94
		P.G.	2,454	53	21·6	39	15·9
		P.S.	611	1	1·64	2	3·27
10. Other Diseases and Defects		P.	19,088	762	39·92	410	21·48
		P.G.	2,454	82	33·41	70	28·52
		P.S.	611	—	—	1	1·64

P.—Public. P.G.—Prep. and Grammar. P.S.—Private Secondary.

Nutrition

Estimates of the nutritional state of children examined during the year are given in the following table.

TABLE V
Contrasting Findings in Different Types of School

AGE GROUP	SCHOOL		NORMAL (A)		SUB-NORMAL (B)		BAD (C)	
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Entrants	Public	Nos. %	2,558 70·88	2,340 67·55	975 27·02	993 28·67	76 2·1	131 3·78
	Prep. and Grammar	Nos. %	44 80	73 84·88	11 20	13 15·12	—	—
	Private Secondary	Nos. %	12 70·59	23 82·14	5 29·41	5 17·86	—	—
Second	Public	Nos. %	1,796 77·61	1,889 76·45	493 21·31	535 21·65	25 1·08	47 1·9
	Prep. and Grammar	Nos. %	97 88·18	115 95·04	12 10·91	6 4·96	1 0·91	—
	Private Secondary	Nos. %	6 54·55	23 79·31	5 45·45	6 20·69	—	—
Third	Public	Nos. %	1,827 72·41	1,829 76·24	669 26·52	548 22·84	27 1·07	22 0·92
	Prep. and Grammar	Nos. %	173 75·54	106 81·54	55 24·02	24 18·46	1 0·44	—
	Private Secondary	Nos. %	59 57·84	61 76·25	40 39·22	19 23·75	3 2·94	—
Fourth	Public	Nos. %	916 80·92	1,017 86·47	215 18·99	148 12·59	1 0·09	11 0·94
	Prep. and Grammar	Nos. %	614 90·69	284 85·80	57 8·42	47 14·20	6 0·89	—
	Private Secondary	Nos. %	64 45·39	72 94·74	69 48·94	4 5·26	8 5·67	—
Fifth	Public	Nos. %	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
	Prep. and Grammar	Nos. %	361 95·25	310 92·26	18 4·75	26 7·74	— —	— —
	Private Secondary	Nos. %	55 55·0	26 92·86	39 39·00	2 7·14	6 6·00	— —
TOTALS	Public	Nos. %	7,097 74·10	7,075 74·40	2,352 24·56	2,224 23·38	129 1·34	211 2·22
	Prep. and Grammar	Nos. %	1,289 88·90	888 88·44	153 10·55	116 11·55	8 0·55	—
	Private Secondary	Nos. %	196 52·83	205 85·06	158 42·59	36 14·94	17 4·58	—

Visual Defects

In the following tables are set forth (1) the sex and age distribution of the visual defects found and (2) the incidence of defective vision in relation to the type of school attended.

TABLE VI (1)

Visual Acuity	Types of School	Second Age Group				Third Age Group				Fourth Age Group				Fifth Age Group				TOTALS			
		B	%	G	%	B	%	G	%	B	%	G	%	B	%	G	%	B	%	G	%
6/6-6/9, R. or L. Eye	Public	1,994	86.17	2,120	85.8	2,145	85.02	2,006	83.62	955	84.36	976	82.99	—	—	—	—	5,094	85.34	5,102	84.39
	Prep. and Grammar	102	92.72	112	92.56	187	81.66	117	90.00	545	80.50	289	87.31	311	82.06	279	83.04	1,145	82.08	797	86.89
	Private Secondary	8	72.8	22	75.9	79	77.5	68	85.0	121	85.8	69	90.8	82	82.0	25	89.3	290	81.9	184	86.4
6/12-6/24, R. or L. Eye	Public	255	11.02	287	11.61	297	11.77	310	12.92	132	11.66	149	12.67	—	—	—	—	684	11.46	746	12.34
	Prep. and Grammar	4	3.64	7	5.79	26	11.35	6	4.62	87	12.85	26	7.86	37	9.76	38	11.31	154	11.04	77	8.39
	Private Secondary	—	—	5	17.2	19	18.6	8	10.0	14	9.9	3	3.9	15	15.0	2	7.1	48	13.6	18	8.5
6/36 or worse, R. or L. Eye	Public	65	2.81	64	2.59	81	3.21	83	3.46	45	3.98	51	4.34	—	—	—	—	191	3.20	198	3.27
	Prep. and Grammar	4	3.64	2	1.65	16	6.99	7	5.38	45	6.65	16	4.83	31	8.18	19	5.65	96	6.88	44	4.79
	Private Secondary	3	27.2	2	6.9	4	3.9	4	5.0	6	4.3	4	5.3	3	3.0	1	3.6	16	4.5	11	5.1
Totals	Public	2,314	—	2,471	—	2,523	—	2,399	—	1,132	—	1,176	—	—	—	—	—	5,969	—	6,046	—
	Prep. and Grammar	110	—	121	—	229	—	130	—	677	—	331	—	379	—	336	—	1,395	—	918	—
	Private Secondary	11	—	29	—	102	—	80	—	141	—	76	—	100	—	28	—	354	—	213	—

TABLE VI (2)

Rating School	6/6-6/9				6/12-6/24				6/36 and over				Totals	
	Public %		Grammar %		Public %		Grammar %		Public %		Grammar %		Public	Grammar
1.	7,263	85.98	904	84.01	912	10.80	111	10.32	272	3.22	61	5.67	8,447	1,076
2.	2,114	85.45	859	84.80	289	11.68	94	9.28	71	2.87	60	5.92	2,474	1,013
3.	819	74.87	179	79.91	229	20.93	26	11.61	46	4.20	19	8.48	1,094	224
	10,196	84.86	1,942	83.96	1,430	11.90	231	9.99	389	3.24	140	6.05	12,015	2,313

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK

Provision of the mid-day school meal continued on the same lines as in previous years. In the majority of cases, meals are prepared in Central School Kitchens and transported to dining centres or individual schools in insulated containers. The high nutritional standard and quality of the meals have been maintained and considering the large number of meals served during the year complaints received by this Department have been negligible. Medical Officers have made periodic inspections of kitchens during the preparation of meals, and at dining centres during distribution, and their reports on the standard of hygiene have been favourable.

The supply of a third of a pint bottle of milk to each child was continued and during the year a total of 18,288,045 bottles were distributed.

The following details are given of the work of this Service during the year:—

1. Total number of meals served during the year 1st January—
31st December, 1953 — 2,036,468
2. Percentage of children receiving school meals ... — 14.9
3. Dining Centres opened during the year :
Ashfield Boys' Intermediate School.
Ballymurphy Primary School.
Donegall Road Primary School.
Greenwood House Primary School.
4. A new School Kitchen came into operation at Ashfield Girls' Intermediate School.

RE-EXAMINATION GROUP

In the accompanying table details are given of the disabilities found at routine medical inspection which required observation and re-examination at a later date. With surveillance of this nature a of any deterioration prompt investigation carried out and treatment started.

TABLE VII

Total No. Due: 15,906 (761) No. of Boys Exam.: 5,764 (241)
 Total No. Examined: 12,039 (473) No. of Girls Exam.: 6,275 (232)

(Figures in brackets above relate to Grammar Schools)

DEFECTS OF		TREATED										UNTREATED						Observation only
		Cured		Improved		Same		Total	Improved		Same		Total					
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%								
Malnutrition	.....	8 —	6.11 —	107 —	81.67 —	16 —	12.22 —	131 —	29 —	74.36 —	10 —	25.64 —	39 —	43 —			
Skin	.....	15 6	38.46 100.00	17 —	43.59 —	7 —	17.95 —	39 6	4 9	100.00 100.00	— —	— —	4 9	27 8			
Eyes—Vision	.....	3 —	0.1 —	2,331 172	79.07 86.00	614 28	20.83 14.00	2,948 200	441 45	58.96 75.00	307 15	41.04 25.00	748 60	645 26			
" Squint*	.....	8 —	0.7 —	763 6	66.52 35.29	376 11	32.78 64.71	1,147 17	30 —	57.69 —	22 —	42.31 —	52 —	34 —			
" O.C.	.....	21 1	29.58 100.0	41 —	57.74 —	9 —	12.68 —	71 1	14 —	60.87 —	9 —	39.13 —	23 —	26 —			

(Table continued overleaf)

TABLE VII—continued

DEFECTS OF		TREATED								UNTREATED				Observation only	
		Cured		Improved		Same		Total	Improved		Same		Total		
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Ear	P. G.	41 4	23.3 50.00	116 4	65.91 50.00	19 —	10.79 —	176 8	56.56 66.67	69 4	56.56 66.67	53 2	43.44 33.33	122 6	86 1
Nose and Throat	P. G.	437 8	70.37 88.89	156 1	25.12 11.11	28 —	4.51 —	621 9	49.86 97.92	861 47	49.86 97.92	866 1	50.14 2.08	1,727 48	1,664 15
Speech	P. G.	5 —	4.07 —	105 —	85.36 —	13 —	10.57 —	123 —	34.23 75.00	51 3	34.23 75.00	98 1	65.77 25.00	149 4	122 3
Heart	P. G.	1 —	1.64 —	38 —	62.3 —	22 —	36.06 —	61 —	61.36 91.67	81 11	61.36 91.67	51 1	38.64 8.33	132 12	129 4
Lungs	P. G.	35 2	8.35 66.67	318 1	75.9 33.33	66 —	15.75 —	419 3	84.62 92.86	220 13	84.62 92.86	40 1	15.38 7.14	260 14	265 5
T.B.	P. G.	— —	— —	6 —	60.00 —	4 —	40.00 —	10 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	15 —
Nervous	P. G.	1 —	5.26 —	16 —	84.21 —	2 —	10.53 —	19 —	90.91 —	10 —	90.91 —	1 —	9.09 —	11 —	14 —
Orthopaedic	P. G.	18 8	7.35 80.00	195 2	79.59 20.00	32 —	13.06 —	245 10	66.22 100.0	49 18	66.22 100.0	25 —	33.78 —	74 18	146 7
M. Retarded	P. G.	— —	— —	8 —	30.77 —	18 —	69.23 —	26 —	44.12 —	15 —	44.12 —	19 —	55.88 —	34 —	71 —
Other Conditions	P. G.	112 10	20.82 38.46	357 16	66.36 61.54	69 —	12.82 —	538 26	71.21 82.61	183 19	71.21 82.61	74 4	28.79 17.39	257 23	331 17
TOTALS	P. G.	705 39	10.72 13.93	4,574 202	69.58 72.14	1,295 39	19.70 13.93	6,574 280	56.64 87.11	2,057 169	56.64 87.11	1,575 25	43.36 12.89	3,632 194	3,618 86

* Not included in "Vision".

P—Public School Figures and Percentages;

G—Grammar School Figures and Percentages.

NURSERY SCHOOLS AND CENTRES

There are at present nine Nursery Schools and Centres where children under five years of age attend. Five of these are run on a voluntary basis by the Managers of large industrial concerns. The children in the Nursery Schools and Centres are medically examined on entry and at frequent intervals thereafter. Health Visitors attend to help supervise the health of the children and assist generally in their health education. The state of the health of the children in all our Nursery Schools has remained at a high level throughout the year and there have been no outbreaks of infectious diseases necessitating the closure of any school.

GRAYMOUNT OPEN AIR SCHOOL

During the year this Open Air School for delicate and physically handicapped children was worked to full capacity. A great need exists for the provision of many more places for the special educational treatment of the delicate and physically handicapped children in the City, and long waiting lists at present exist. It is not considered a suitable arrangement to deal with the delicate and physically handicapped children together in the same class, as children in the latter category usually require special treatment throughout their school career, whereas the delicate child's stay is usually only temporary. The valuable characteristics of Open Air School education include medical treatment, individual attention, rest, fresh air and instruction in hygienic living. Educational methods adopted are especially devised to suit the child's particular disability.

The provision of three meals a day ensures that the delicate child is getting sufficient food and a period of rest and quiet on stretcher beds, under supervision, is also part of the normal routine following the mid-day meal.

Transport is provided to convey all children to and from the school. The children are here under very strict medical supervision, being examined at approximately three monthly intervals by the school doctor who visits once weekly. In addition, the children are under the watchful eyes of teachers of long experience who are skilled in this specialised type of work, and a Health Visitor is available for advice and treatment of minor ailments.

Following are details of disabilities of children attending the school together with details of admissions and discharges.

Total Number of Places Available = 130.

Number Admitted during the year :

Boys	=	30	
Girls	=	15	Total = 45.

Reasons for Admission:—

			Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Tuberculosis Complex	...		3	—	3
Old Tuberculosis of Bone	...	...	—	2	2
Tuberculosis Contacts	...	...	—	2	2
General Delicacy	...	...	7	2	9
Bronchitis	...	...	3	1	4
Asthma	...	...	7	1	8
Bronchiectasis	...	...	3	1	4
Anaemia	...	...	1	—	1
Nervousness	...	...	1	1	2
Coeliac Disease	...	...	1	1	2
Debility	...	...	—	2	2
Rheumatism and Chorea	...	...	—	2	2
Heart	...	...	1	—	1
Cerebral Palsy	...	...	1	—	1
Osteomyelitis	...	...	1	—	1
Muscular Dystrophy	...	...	1	—	1
			30	15	45

Number Discharged during the year :

Boys	—	28	
Girls	—	27	Total = 55.

Average Duration of Stay in months

Boys — 28 months.

Girls — 32 months.

Average 30 months.

EDUCATIONALLY SUBNORMAL CHILDREN

During the summer months the extensions to Mount Vernon Special School for educationally subnormal children were completed and it was possible to admit a further fifty children to this school. This increased the total number of places for educationally subnormal children in the City in Mount Vernon and Oakleigh Special Schools to approximately 340 places. With the contemplated addition of further accommodation at Taughmonagh School it is hoped that a further fifty places will be available in 1954.

During the year a total of 334 children, with this form of handicap, were examined by the Medical Officers of the School Health Service, 202 children being referred to the Director of Education as suitable for attendance at special schools for educationally subnormal children or for tuition in special classes in the ordinary school. Co-operation with the Educational Psychologist throughout the year has been most helpful and personal consultations have often taken place in arriving at decisions regarding the most suitable form of education in individual problem cases. Much valuable work has been done by the Educational Psychologist in organising tuition in special classes in ordinary schools for children whose degree of backwardness does not warrant their transfer to special schools.

INEDUCABLE CHILDREN

Forty-six children were dealt with under Section 53 of the Education Act (N.I), 1947 and were referred to the Special Care Service of the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority as being incapable of receiving education at school. When children falling into this category are referred to the Special Care Service their education ceases to be the responsibility of the Education Authority, all documents and records concerning them being forwarded to the Special Care Service which assumes responsibility for their care and welfare.

CAMP SCHOOL

As in previous years the Camp School at Dundrum was held from April until September giving an opportunity for City children to spend a week's holiday by the sea-side in pleasant and health promoting surroundings. Sixty children accompanied by their teachers spend a week at Camp during which, in addition to receiving tuition, they engage in many forms of outdoor activity. All games are not organised and an opportunity is given to children to arrange their own forms of entertainment in Camp concerts, etc. This school Camp has proved very popular with children and it is very often noted that there is a distinct improvement in a child's appetite following the first few days. The food is prepared in a hygienic manner and is tastefully served.

Children at the Camp are under the care of a local Medical Practitioner for any minor ailments or illnesses which might arise during their stay there, and all children are examined by a school doctor prior to their leaving for Camp to eliminate the possibility of infectious or contagious diseases.

During the year a total of 890 children spent a week at the Camp School.

EXAMINATION CLINICS

Cases continue to be referred to our clinics from varying sources, the most important being by welfare officers, teachers, parents and not the least, by magistrates ; in the latter case, for referee purposes prior to being dealt with by the courts. Attendances totalled 28,974, an increase of 4.26% over the year 1952. Of those seen, 508 were referred on to private practitioners, and 192 to the Tuberculosis Authority.

The accompanying table indicates the different conditions for which medical examinations were carried out. Included therein are 21 cases which were visited at home because the children could not be brought to the clinics.

TABLE VIII
Clinic Examinations

CONDITION		No. of Examinations carried out	Per Cent.	CONDITION	No. of Examinations carried out	Per Cent.
For Anaesthetics	...	10,227	35.27	For Lungs	1,081	3.73
" Colds	...	289	1.00	" Mentally Dull	563	1.94
" Debility	...	322	1.11	" Nervous	221	.76
" Ears	...	452	1.56	" Nose and Throat	1,064	3.67
" Eyes—Vision only	...	1,392	4.80	" Skins	3,038	10.48
" Eyes—Other conditions	...	265	.91	" Tuberculin Skin Test	4,073	14.06
" Gastro Enteritis	...	266	.92	" B.C.G. (Vaccination against Tuberculosis)	1,863	6.43
" Heart and Circulation	...	119	.41	" Other classified small groups	1,734	6.57
" Infectious Disease Control	...	99	.34	" Miscellaneous—unclassified	1,006	6.03

B.C.G. VACCINATION

One important feature showing the increase in the scope of the School Health Service has been the introduction of B.C.G. Vaccination of school children against Tuberculosis. The Belfast Health Authority, acting as agents for and working under the guidance of the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority, decided in the latter part of 1952 to introduce a scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination of school children in selected age groups. During 1953 it has been possible to bring this scheme into full operation. The age groups of children offered B.C.G. Vaccination are those of the 11+, 13+ and 16+ range. One gratifying feature has been the favourable response which the scheme has received from the parents, and very often requests are received for vaccination of children in other age groups. Permission of the parents is obtained in every case prior to Tuberculin Skin Testing for susceptibility and for the actual vaccination. The introduction of this scheme has necessarily increased the volume of work carried out by Medical Officers, Health Visitors and Clinic Staffs, and a total of nine clinic sessions a week is now necessary to cope with this work. During the year a total of 1,612 school children had successfully received B.C.G. Vaccination.

Below are given the results obtained from initial Tuberculin Skin Testing of school children to determine numbers requiring B.C.G. Vaccination.

1.	Total number of children receiving Tuberculin Jelly Skin Test	...	5,254
2.	Number of children who showed Positive Reaction	...	3,386
3.	Percentage of children showing Positive Reaction	...	64.54
4.	Number of children who showed Negative Reaction	...	1,863
	(This group is recommended for B.C.G. Vaccination)		
5.	Percentage of children showing Negative Reaction	...	35.46
6.	Number of children showing doubtful reaction and requiring re-testing...		5
7.	Percentage of children showing doubtful reaction	...	.09

EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINICS

The School Ophthalmic Service continues to function in a satisfactory manner but the waiting list for examination continues to grow. The majority of children who suffer from visual defects requiring specialist examination are referred to the Ophthalmic Clinics where examination is carried out by specialists who are employed by the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority. Spectacles are supplied to school children free of charge by the Supplementary Eye Service, but repair and replacement following damage or breakage are, in the large majority of cases, a charge on the Local Health Authority. The charge for replacement is payable by the parent in cases where there is negligence, or where the damage is malicious: in the majority of cases damage is accidental but the cost falls on the Local Health Authority. There is no doubt that children as a whole do not treat their spectacles with sufficient care and parents often fail to accept any responsibility in the matter. During the year 1953 the Local Health Authority paid out the sum of £391 15s. 7d. in spectacle repair and replacement, 479 " incidents " being dealt with.

During the year a total of 5,585 children were examined by eye specialists in our clinics, 4,456 being refraction cases.

During the first three months of the year no Tonsil and Adenoid operations were carried out at the Dufferin and Ava Hospital on children referred from the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics of the School Health Service. Operating sessions had been terminated owing to lack of hospital beds and it was not possible to resume this work until the middle of April when two operating sessions weekly were resumed. As only four or sometimes five Tonsillectomies were performed at each session, this arrangement proved totally inadequate to cope with the large number of cases on the waiting lists which have continued to mount month by month. During November we were informed by the Hospitals Authority that operating sessions would again have to be suspended owing to shortage of beds and these have not yet been resumed. A total of 218 Tonsillectomies were performed and 1,641 children were examined by the Consultant Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon throughout the year.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Full details of the number of children inspected in schools and in clinics together with the treatment offered, accepted and given, will be found in the report of the Senior Dental Officer which is appended, and which forms part of this report.

An indication of the special position which the School Dental Service holds in the dental treatment of children is shown by the fact that over 75% of children requiring and accepting treatment elected to receive this in the School Dental Clinics. As a result of an increase in dental staff it was possible to extend treatment sessions during the year by 1,062 to a total of 5,999, a large proportion of this increase being devoted to conservation treatments. In spite of this increase in staff, and in the treatment facilities provided in the clinics, it was not always possible to keep pace with waiting lists for treatment. As in the case of the School Health Clinic Services great need exists for an increase in clinic accommodation for the dental treatment of school children.

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT THERAPY

Ultra-Violet Light Treatment sessions continued throughout the year at the three main clinics, cases being referred by the medical staff and by general practitioners. All children are medically examined by the doctor before commencement and on completion of a course of treatment. A total number of 6,560 treatments was given during the year.

HEARING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

During the year it was possible, owing to an increase in Health Visitor staff, to maintain an almost continuous survey of the hearing of school children. By using the electric gramophone audiometer it is possible to test the hearing and to calculate the hearing loss in decibels of twenty children at the same time. The tests are carried out in school and, in addition to the age group under survey, tests are carried out on children specially referred by parents or teachers. Children who do not show a favourable response to the test are examined individually in the school clinics by appointment and the majority of these are referred for specialist examination. In some cases the partial deafness is due to some physical condition of the ear or throat and improvement results from appropriate medical or surgical treatment. A child who is unable to hear accurately the instructions of a teacher may be regarded as lazy or inattentive and may be reprimanded unjustly. In the past cases have occurred where children have been incorrectly considered to be mentally backward when the prime defect was one of hearing. Marked deafness is easily detected but mild degrees of deafness may go undetected for years resulting in slow educational progress. Modern audiometric methods of testing can identify at an early age children who have defective hearing and who may be in need of special education.

During the year a total of 14,607 children were tested in school by health visitors using the gramophone audiometer and 537 individual examinations were carried out in clinics. In addition to the survey 18 children had individual audiometric tests carried out.

1. Number of schools visited	...	...	...	...	49
2. Number of Children referred for Specialist examination	...	...	...	...	588

SPEECH THERAPY

During the last six months of 1952 only one Speech Therapist remained on our staff. Owing to the great shortage of qualified Speech Therapists it was not possible to obtain the service of an additional Speech Therapist until October, 1953. This resulted in an increase in the number of children waiting for this form of treatment. With two Speech Therapists it is now possible to conduct twenty treatment sessions weekly in clinics and schools and the long waiting lists are being reduced. It is estimated that there are over 1,000 school children in the Belfast County Borough who are suffering from some form of abnormal speech requiring investigation. To provide an adequate Speech Therapy Service for a City of this size a whole time staff of four Speech Therapists is necessary. One great drawback in providing an adequate and efficient service is the lack of suitable clinic accommodation. In addition, owing to overcrowding, few schools can provide a quiet classroom suitable for Speech Therapy. As the treatment of Speech defects tends to be prolonged in most cases the patient co-operation of parents and children is essential if the maximum benefit is to be derived from the treatment provided. During the year it was found necessary to remove the names of 34 children from the treatment rolls because of poor attendance.

1.	Total number of children given treatment	...	...	...	345
2.	Total number of attendances	...	...	...	3,767
3.	Number of cases discharged	...	...	...	89
4.	Conditions treated or types of cases dealt with :—				
	(a) Stammering				
	(b) Dyslalia				
	(c) Dysphonia				
	(d) Cleft Palate				
	(e) Defective articulation.				
5.	Number of children awaiting treatment	...	...	...	267

CHILD GUIDANCE

As in previous years children who showed evidence of emotional instability or maladjustment, etc. were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic which is organised by the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority. This clinic is the only one of its kind in Northern Ireland and there is a heavy demand on its services which inevitably results in children having to wait for some time before treatment can be commenced. Close co-operation exists between the staff of the Child Guidance Clinic and that of the School Health Service with free exchange of information, and cases which require urgent investigation or treatment are given priority.

Ideally, as in Great Britain, a Child Guidance Service should be one of the Services provided by the Local Health Authority for children in their area. One of the main problems facing the extension of the School Health Service in Belfast to include Child Guidance is that of inadequate accommodation. When additional accommodation becomes available with the opening of new clinics which are at present under consideration, steps should be taken to set up a Child Guidance Clinic comprising the usual Child Guidance team of Psychiatrist, Psychologist and Psychiatric Social Worker. This team would work very closely with the staff of the Education Department and would have day-to-day contact with Medical Officers, Health Visitors, Welfare Workers and Teachers.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

A total of twenty Physiotherapy sessions are held weekly in school clinics and in rented premises. At routine medical inspections early deviation from normal physical development is readily detected and it is often possible by introduction of remedial exercises to halt abnormal development and promote recovery. Conditions such as postural and foot defects and chest deformity are referred for treatment by the Physiotherapist. Children are instructed at the clinics in the correct performance of the exercises and the active co-operation of parents is essential to ensure maximum benefit from the treatment. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children at the commencement of treatment and the responsibility of ensuring that exercises are carried out in the home rests with them. It is unfortunate that owing to poor attendance it has been found necessary to remove the names of 165 children from the treatment rolls during the year. The removal of a name from the roll usually follows three or more absences and often it is necessary for a Health Visitor to make a personal visit to the home of a child to ascertain the cause of non-attendance.

1.	Total number of children treated	...	...	...	1,079
2.	Total number of attendances	...	...	...	14,477
3.	Number of cases discharged	...	...	...	275
4.	Number on waiting list	...	...	...	209
5.	Conditions treated or type of case dealt with:—				
	(a) Flat Feet				
	(b) Postural Defects				
	(c) Respiratory Conditions				
	(d) Miscellaneous.				

UNCLEANLINESS IN THE SCHOOL CHILD

One of the major problems which has confronted the School Health Service since its inception, and unfortunately still confronts it to-day, is the problem of the verminous child. A persistent campaign is waged by Health Visitors and other officers of the School Health Service against the head louse and yet the number of children still infested remains very high. Of the children examined during the year an average of 6.03% had nits in the hair, while in 1.88%, actual vermin were present. The Head Cleansing staff of the School Health Service carried out 7,886 treatments during the year.

Probably one of the major errors that has been made in tackling this problem in the past is that the school child has been looked upon as an individual rather than as a member of the family unit. There is no doubt that a high infestation rate occurs in adolescence and in the aged in the home. Considerable cross-infestation occurs in factories and in work rooms, and in spite of frequent head cleansing the school child tends to become re-infested at home. In the case of children who become frequently infested, Health Visitors make personal calls on the home and tactful advice is given. In cases where it is considered that other members of the family are infested, and where there is general uncleanliness, an opportunity is given for the entire family to attend at the Public Health Cleansing Centre for treatment. Forty-six families were dealt with by the Public Health Cleansing staff during the year.

This problem, in many cases, lies in the field of Health Education in which the Health Visitor, by virtue of her training and experience, is a key worker. The problem of the persistently verminous child cannot be entirely solved by a drive against uncleanliness alone. Uncleanliness itself may be a symptom of something more fundamental and only by attempting to deal with the underlying cause can we hope to achieve lasting improvement.

YOUTH ADVISORY SERVICE

The School Health Service has, in the past, seldom been requested to submit information on the medical fitness or otherwise of children for various types of employment. Following consultation with the staff of the Youth Advisory Service, which is a branch of the Education Department, it was decided to submit school leaving medical reports for the information and guidance of those officers whose job it is to find suitable employment for children who suffer from any form of medical disability or physical handicap. In order that a handicapped child finds employment consistent with his ability it is essential that the maximum amount of information be available to those who are concerned in finding suitable employment for him. During the year medical reports were issued in the case of all children who, on examination at routine medical inspection prior to leaving school, were found to be suffering from any form of disability which might limit their choice of occupation. In addition, children who have already left school and for whom the Youth Advisory Service is seeking employment have been examined at the request of the Youth Advisory Officer in order to assess their physical capabilities. In this way the School Health Service can play a valuable role in the placing of the handicapped child in a job where he can earn his livelihood without detriment to his future health and well-being.

In order to further augment this Service it was decided at the end of the year to introduce Colour Vision Testing of all school children prior to their reaching school leaving age.

During the year a total of 56 medical reports were issued for the guidance of the Youth Advisory Service.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

Below is set out in table form the position as to the number of children in this area who could be classified as handicapped. Details are given of special educational treatment already being provided for some together with the requirements of the remainder,

TABLE IX

" Delicate " Pupils

GROUPS	Hospital School		Open Air School		Day School		No School		Home Tuition		Totals	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Rheumatism and Chorea	10	8	2	5	69	88	2	5	1	4	84	110
Hearts -Mild	—	—	2	—	42	48	—	—	—	—	44	48
T.B. Glands P.T.C.	11	15	3	3	103	87	1	4	—	—	118	109
Debility, Anaemia, Chests, etc.	—	2	73	72	249	175	2	—	1	2	325	251
TOTALS.....	21	25	80	80	463	398	5	9	2	6	571	518
	46		160		861		14		8		1,089	

TABLE X

Physically Handicapped Pupils

GROUPS	Hospital School		Sanatorium School		Open Air School		Day School		No School		Home Tuition		Totals	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Hearts - Severe	—	—	—	—	7	5	60	56	—	1	8	2	75	64
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary Bone and Gland	17	7	20	13	4	4	38	43	4	4	2	2	85	73
Orthopaedic	5	2	—	—	4	2	87	69	6	3	2	5	104	81
Other Conditions	9	3	—	—	6	5	25	21	6	1	8	8	54	38
TOTALS	31	12	20	13	21	16	210	189	16	9	20	17	318	256
	43		33		37		399		25		37		573	

TABLE XI
Handicapped Children

			Boys	Girls	Total
Blind (including partly sighted)	I Suitable for training in school or class for totally blind	Attending certified Schools or classes for Blind	3	6	9
		At day school	—	—	—
		No school or institution	—	1	1
	II Training in school for partially sighted	Attending certified schools or classes for partially sighted	10	6	16
		At day school	90	95	185
		At no school or institution	—	1	1
Deaf (including partially deaf)	I Suitable for training in school for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb	Attending certified schools or classes for deaf	15	18	33
		At day school	—	—	—
		At unrecognised school	—	1	1
		At no school or institution	1	—	1
	II Suitable for training in school or class for partially deaf and/or dumb	At certified schools or classes for the deaf	4	13	17
		At day school	8	7	15
		At unrecognised school	1	1	2
		No school	1	1	2
Educationally Sub-normal	I Attending schools for educationally sub-normal children		200	143	343
	II Ascertained and recommended for admission		65	51	116
Epileptics	I Suffering from severe epilepsy	Attending certified special schools for epileptics	1	1	2
		In institutions other than certified schools	—	—	—
		At day school	2	6	8
		No school or institution	4	2	6
	II Suffering from Epilepsy that is not severe	At day school	29	29	58
		No school	—	—	—

REPORT OF THE SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1953

Report covering the work of the Dental Section during the year 1953. A summarised statistical report in the form required by the Ministry of Health and Local Government is appended.

DENTAL INSPECTION IN SCHOOLS

After an interval of four years, during which it was only possible to provide restricted dental inspections in schools, by reason of inadequacy of dental staff, it is extremely satisfactory to be able to report that, during 1953, there was a resumption of inspection of all children in attendance at those schools for which the Health Authority is responsible. Except in the case of six schools, in the Grammar School group, which do not actively participate in the Local Authority's dental scheme, there were organised dental inspections for all types of grant aided schools in the City. Inspection of a total of 193 schools required the allocation of 573 half-day sessions, an average of 114 children being inspected per session. Of the total notified during the year for inspection, 65,300 attended, a figure equivalent to 88.1% of those registered on rolls, and a percentage which may be regarded as satisfactory in its relationship to the daily average attendance at school. No parent refused to have a child inspected. The above figures can be summarised as representing, in children inspected, an increase in dental inspection of approximately 40 per cent. over the previous year.

DENTAL CONDITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED

Of those inspected, 79 per cent. or a total of 51,568 children were found to have defects of one form or another. Of the various groups, as might be expected, the Primary School group showed the highest defect percentage, in part due to inclusion, in this group, of ages associated with pending loss of deciduous teeth, and the commencing damage to the permanent dentition. That an average of over 50 per cent. of children of the Nursery School age required treatment surely emphasises the importance of dental treatment for the pre-school child, and indeed of particular measures for the expectant mother, as a logical means of reducing the high dental defect incidence which, as regards the school child, eventually presents itself en masse to the school dental service. Any complacency that may have arisen as a result of last year's lower defect percentage has evidently been unjustified, and it is necessary to take this year's figure, which is based on a wider inspection survey, as being the truer finding, namely that approximately four out of every five children or pupils at school in the City require dental treatment. More dramatically perhaps, but nevertheless indicative, it may be stated that 141,393 teeth were found to require conservation treatments, and that 25,265 teeth were unfortunately unsalvageable and would require to be extracted.

POST INSPECTION NOTIFICATION AND PARENTS' RESPONSE

It has not so far been possible to notify, in any one year, the total number of children found defective, by reason of inadequacy in clinics and staff to meet the proportionate demand ensuing upon a full notification. Notifications are therefore issued in priority of the patients' greatest treatment need, compatible with the capacity of the clinics to provide treatment. During the year however, 40,193 children or 77.9 per cent. of defectives were advised to obtain treatment, an increase of 47.4 per cent. over the previous year's notifications. Each parent has the option of accepting or refusing treatment, and the choice of obtaining treatment either from a private practitioner or from the Health Committee's dental service. Of those notified, 82.4 per cent. agreed to have treatment, and of that total, 24.5 per cent. elected to visit a private dentist, the balance of 75.5 per cent. applying for treatment at our clinics. Although during the year, and due to a greater acceptance of juvenile patients by private dental practitioners, the proportionate percentage applying for clinic treatment fell by 3.8 per cent., in actual figures, and largely by reason of the increase in school dental inspections, the total number of applications for treatment at the Health Committee's Clinics rose from 14,103 in 1952, to a total of 25,008. This latter figure is the highest yearly total to be recorded so far in regard to City clinic applications.

ATTENDANCES AT CITY CLINICS

During the year, attendances at the Committee's dental clinics reached a total of 63,245. This figure constituted a record of yearly attendances, and consisted of new and previous patients in the approximate proportion of 10 per cent. and 90 per cent. respectively, the whole representing an increase of 8 per cent. over the previous year. In terms of individuals constituting the above total of patients, there was an increase of 5 per cent. to a total of 19,565, this figure representing, how-

ever, only one-third of the total individual defectives on school rolls, thereby indicative of a clinic capacity far from adequate in meeting requirements. In consequence, waiting lists for treatment accumulated from time to time throughout the year, with regrettable delay in treatment of the children.

DENTAL TREATMENT IN CLINICS

As a result of an increase in full-time operating staff and the utilisation of the sessional services of private dental practitioners, treatment sessions (half-day) were extended during the year by 1,062 to a total of 5,999. Of this total, 5,238 sessions were devoted to conservation treatments, with the result that the full-time staff, supplemented by that of the sessional officers, produced in filling treatments a total of 32,880, an increase in this branch of treatment of 30·8 per cent. over the previous year. The proportionate relationship of extractions to fillings showed a move in the right direction, there being a fall during the year of 13·3 per cent. in the total of extraction treatments. There was an accompanying reduction in the total number of anaesthetics. In relationship to the greater number of patients treated, there were proportionate increases in the various subsidiary treatments, and extended use was made of X-Ray facilities for diagnosis. Each child attending for treatment received on the average 4·48 treatments during the year. Check inspections in clinics averaged two per child inspected. Patients averaged 5,110·4 per surgeon, and the number of treatments provided during the year totalled 72,426, the highest yearly figure to be recorded in regard to the treatment section of the service.

GENERAL REMARKS

Only by reason of an increase in operating staff, approximately equal to the service of two full-time officers, has it been possible to tabulate the foregoing expanded activity of the dental service during the year. The employment of sessional officers, although proportionately less economical than the equivalent in full-time staff, has however ensured the fullest use of available equipment. In accordance with the comprehensive proposals of the Local Authority, approved by the Ministry of Health and Local Government for the current period, we have honoured our obligation as regards the extent of dental inspections in schools. In other respects however we have made scanty progress. The proposal to provide Orthodontic and Prosthetic treatments for the children remains unfulfilled, and is a continual source of embarrassment to administrative and operating staff in explanation or excuse to the parent. The provision of new clinic facilities for the South Area of the City which, as I have mentioned in previous reports, is of the utmost importance in relieving clinic pressure in other areas of the City, still remains unestablished. Our borrowed occupation for school dental purposes, of the Maternity and Child Health dental premises, continues to exclude provision of dental treatment for the expectant and nursing mother, and for the pre-school child, a service also obligatory upon the Health Authority, and of the greatest importance in any comprehensive attempt to reduce the high incidence of dental decay in the school child.

In concluding this report, may I express appreciation to all co-operating officers and sections for their support and efforts towards the year's attainment. Detailed statistics covering all aspects of the school dental service are appended.

A. S. IRVING, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Edin.)

Senior Dental Officer.

Statistical Tables

School Dental Inspection

SCHOOL DENTAL INSPECTION	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
SCHOOLS VISITED:				
Primary	60	52	42	154
Intermediate	1	4	3	8
Technical, Preparatory and Grammar	12	5	5	22
Nursery and Nursery Centre	2	4	2	8
Special	—	3	1	4
TOTAL Visits	216	198	160	574
" Inspection Sessions	211	202	160	573
" Inspected per Session (Average)	115	110	118	114
TOTAL SCHOOLS VISITED	75	68	53	196
" " " (per cent)	(100·0)	(100·0)	(100·0)	(100·0)
RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION:				
Refusing Inspection	—	—	—	—
Absent from Inspection	3,272	3,389	2,765	9,426
" " (per cent)	(11·9)	(13·3)	(12·7)	(12·6)
TOTAL "CHILDREN" NOTIFIED	27,473	25,546	21,693	74,712
" " " (per cent of Rolls)	(100·4)	(100·9)	(100·9)	(100·8)
CHILDREN INSPECTED:				
Primary	18,002	18,460	15,384	51,846
" (per cent of Group)	(87·0)	(87·6)	(86·9)	(87·2)
Intermediate	551	2,081	1,598	4,230
" (per cent of Group)	(79·1)	(86·6)	(94·5)	(88·3)
Technical, Preparatory and Grammar	5,610	1,150	1,708	8,468
" " (per cent of Group)	(95·0)	(94·9)	(94·6)	(94·9)
Nursery School and Centre	55	128	69	252
" " " (per cent of Group)	(79·7)	(82·6)	(89·6)	(83·7)
Special School	—	336	168	504
" " (per cent of Group)	—	(73·0)	(81·6)	(75·7)
TOTAL Boys Inspected	13,049	11,558	9,838	34,445
" Girls Inspected	11,169	10,597	9,089	30,855
TOTAL CHILDREN INSPECTED	24,218	22,155	18,927	65,300
" " " (per cent of Rolls)	(88·5)	(87·6)	(88·0)	(88·1)
CHILDREN DEFECTIVE:				
Primary	14,413	15,578	12,217	42,208
" (per cent Inspected)	(80·1)	(84·4)	(79·4)	(81·4)
Intermediate	386	1,541	1,146	3,073
" (per cent Inspected)	(70·1)	(74·1)	(71·7)	(72·6)
Technical, Preparatory and Grammar	3,844	737	1,186	5,767
" " (per cent Inspected)	(68·5)	(64·1)	(69·4)	(68·1)
Nursery School and Centre	26	74	32	132
" " " (per cent Inspected)	(47·3)	(57·8)	(46·4)	(52·4)
Special School	—	263	125	388
" " (per cent Inspected)	—	(78·3)	(74·4)	(77·0)
TOTAL Boys Defective	9,860	9,426	7,581	26,867
" " " (per cent Inspected)	(75·6)	(81·4)	(77·1)	(78·0)
TOTAL Girls Defective	8,809	8,767	7,125	24,701
" " " (per cent Inspected)	(78·9)	(82·7)	(78·4)	(80·1)
TOTAL CHILDREN DEFECTIVE	18,669	18,193	14,706	51,568
" " " (per cent Inspected)	(77·1)	(82·1)	(77·7)	(79·0)

Classification of Dental Defects

CLASSIFICATION		Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
INDIVIDUALS:					
Children with	Saveable Teeth	6,236	7,432	5,163	18,831
	Unsaveable Teeth	2,539	3,103	2,130	7,772
	Saveable and Unsaveable Teeth	3,016	3,006	2,015	8,037
	Irregularity of Dentition	318	262	349	929
	Other Dental and Oral Defects	301	242	363	906
TEETH:					
Temporary Dentition	Sound	135,029	133,669	117,280	385,978
	Saveable	21,711	23,603	18,494	63,808
	Unsaveable	7,142	8,148	4,442	19,732
Permanent Dentition	Sound	349,642	292,791	250,084	892,517
	Saveable	28,112	28,122	21,351	77,585
	Unsaveable	2,560	1,778	1,195	5,533
TOTAL Teeth Saveable		49,823	51,725	39,845	141,393
" " Unsaveable		9,702	9,926	5,637	25,265
" " Examined		544,196	488,111	412,846	1,445,153

Classification of Defectives

AGE GROUPS	BOYS			GIRLS		
	Inspected	Defective	Per cent Defective	Inspected	Defective	Per cent Defective
3	86	35	40·70	71	36	50·70
4	125	73	58·40	148	99	66·89
5	1,342	1,014	75·56	1,329	985	74·12
6	3,252	2,535	77·95	3,091	2,513	81·30
7	3,603	3,032	84·15	3,485	2,979	85·48
8	3,507	2,933	83·63	3,183	2,769	86·99
9	3,806	3,214	84·45	3,641	3,136	86·13
10	3,812	3,107	81·51	3,709	3,034	81·80
11	4,091	3,149	76·97	3,583	2,717	75·83
12	3,789	2,769	73·08	3,146	2,325	73·90
13	3,237	2,339	72·26	2,670	2,030	76·03
14	2,223	1,594	71·70	1,815	1,365	75·21
15	817	574	70·26	506	374	73·91
16	429	295	68·76	313	229	73·16
17	283	180	63·60	147	98	66·67
18	43	24	55·81	18	12	66·67
TOTALS	34,445	26,867	78·00	30,855	24,701	80·06

Post-Inspection Notification and Parents' Response

ITEMS	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
NOTIFIED AS DEFECTIVE:				
Total Notified	14,171	14,750	11,272	40,193
" " (per cent)	(75·9)	(81·1)	(76·7)	(77·9)
PARENTS' RESPONSE:				
Refusing Treatment	1,535	1,817	1,054	4,406
" " (per cent)	(10·83)	(12·32)	(9·35)	(10·96)
No Response	805	1,308	550	2,663
" " (per cent)	(5·68)	(8·87)	(4·88)	(6·63)
Consenting to Treatment (Total)	11,831	11,625	9,668	33,124
" " " (per cent notified)	(83·49)	(78·81)	(85·77)	(82·41)
" " " By own Dentist	3,097	2,607	2,412	8,116
" " " (per cent)	(26·18)	(22·43)	(24·95)	(24·50)
" " " at City Clinics	8,734	9,018	7,256	25,008
" " " (per cent)	(73·82)	(77·57)	(75·05)	(75·50)
TREATMENT ARRANGED:				
Appointments—				
Issued	8,734	9,018	7,256	25,008
" Per cent Applications	(100·0)	(100·0)	(100·0)	(100·0)
" Per cent Defectives Notified	(61·6)	(61·1)	(64·4)	(62·2)
" Per cent Defectives on Rolls	(41·4)	(43·5)	(43·3)	(42·7)

Attendances at City Clinics

CLINIC ATTENDANCES	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
INDIVIDUALS:				
Attending for Inspection	872	755	1,761	3,388
" " Treatment	2,858	2,575	2,693	8,126
" " Inspection and Treatment	3,527	4,015	509	8,051
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	7,257	7,345	4,963	19,565
" " (per cent of Rolls)	(26·5)	(29·0)	(23·1)	(26·4)
PATIENTS:				
New Patients	2,961	2,583	1,026	6,570
" " (per cent)	(14·40)	(11·72)	(4·97)	(10·39)
Previous Patients	17,606	19,455	19,614	56,675
" " (per cent)	(85·60)	(88·28)	(95·03)	(89·61)
"TOTAL" PATIENTS	20,567	22,038	20,640	63,245

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
PRIMARY SCHOOLS:—Area 1				
All Saint's Junior	173	50	193	214
Argyle Senior	671	167	527	654
Ashmore Street Junior	268	74	194	311
Ballymurphy Infants'	181	55	106	174
Blythe Street Junior	295	82	201	283
Botanic Senior	494	183	675	712
Broadway Junior	275	73	197	225
Brown Street	405	88	214	260
Charter's Memorial	252	91	306	380
Donegall Road Junior	432	149	498	502
Earl Street Boys'	126	39	85	100
Earl Street Girls'	134	41	96	133
Earl Street Infants'	141	43	111	142
Fane Street	873	273	828	828
Linfield Junior	324	99	245	332
Mabel Street Junior	352	108	275	324
Magdalene Junior	163	77	184	199
Malone	475	127	326	368
Mariners'	218	57	142	161
Mayo Street Junior	385	139	496	612
McQuiston	312	109	324	391
Ormeau Road Junior	224	97	250	240
Percy Street Junior	148	73	264	298
Porter's Senior	305	90	223	237
Queen Victoria	418	178	513	684
St. Anthony's Boys'	224	74	135	161
St. Anthony's Girls'	223	62	114	151
St. Brendan's	341	103	234	361
St. Bride's	234	51	133	144
St. Catherines'	496	122	289	314
St. Colmcille's	57	13	25	42
St. Comgall's Boys'	526	163	389	533
St. Comgall's Girls'	523	273	925	1,121
St. Finian's	471	160	406	561
St. Gall's	519	231	734	950
St. John's Boys'	348	87	208	259
St. John's Girls'	352	133	283	347
St. Joseph's Boys'	371	91	228	326
St. Joseph's Girls'	312	92	230	307
St. Kevin's Boys'	765	143	367	475
St. Kevin's Girls'	747	185	519	667
St. Mary's Christian Brothers'	468	99	299	433
St. Mary's Boys'	105	37	147	191
St. Mary's Girls'	152	51	109	164
St. Mary's	368	155	402	464
St. Patrick's	147	64	163	219
St. Paul's Boys'	544	214	668	763
St. Paul's Girls'	163	57	115	152
St. Peter's Boys'	321	42	120	117
St. Peter's Girls'	362	55	178	172
St. Saviour's Junior	322	63	87	88
St. Saviour's Senior	275	23	189	228
St. Simon's	447	130	394	437
St. Vincent's	795	107	322	309
Sandy Row Junior	134	56	150	228
Springfield	484	98	334	322
Stranmillis	212	59	193	205
Taughmonagh	223	18	57	53
Ulsterville Junior	479	91	372	321
Workman Junior	135	37	110	118
No School	—	21	60	64
TOTALS	20,689	6,022	17,161	20,531

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis —(Continued)

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
PRIMARY SCHOOLS:—Area 2				
Alexandra	452	174	489	613
Antrim Road	270	152	573	624
Blenheim Junior	213	95	276	399
Carr's Glen	1,135	344	1,122	1,188
Convent	760	280	830	874
Crumlin Road Junior	318	73	213	264
Currie Junior	320	151	497	610
Duncairn Junior	192	84	226	280
Everton	727	225	709	724
Finiston	629	184	503	628
Forth River	549	189	590	627
Fortwilliam	184	109	345	472
Getty Junior	312	47	137	176
Grove Junior	770	419	1,351	1,447
Hemsworth Square Senior	607	152	441	554
Hillman Senior	388	216	670	772
Holy Cross Boys'	942	245	478	619
Holy Cross Girls'	781	142	310	431
Holy Family Boys'	340	108	333	375
Holy Family Girls'	278	115	390	498
Jaffe Memorial	320	116	394	424
John White Junior	519	155	196	524
Lancaster Street	234	86	165	263
Lynn Junior	228	87	271	320
Model Boys'	500	234	755	857
Model Girls'	508	263	854	983
Old Lodge Road	144	64	145	201
Perth Street Junior	311	84	271	327
Riddell Memorial Junior	327	124	317	495
St. Colmban's Boys'	455	120	259	301
St. Colmban's Girls'	416	131	433	139
St. Enoch's	359	128	284	335
St. Malachy's Boys'	111	38	80	107
St. Malachy's Girls'	218	29	79	88
St. Mark's	226	57	144	180
St. Mary's Junior	506	74	223	258
St. Mary's Star of Sea Boys'	339	36	92	115
St. Mary's Star of Sea Girls'	300	36	74	98
St. Patrick's Christian Brothers'	493	79	207	234
St. Patrick's Boys'	441	62	146	218
St. Patrick's Girls'	230	75	141	233
St. Paul's	147	37	82	91
St. Vincent de Paul's Boys'	129	37	84	114
St. Vincent de Paul's Girls'	120	54	144	185
Seaview	875	250	1,018	1,029
Skegoniel	557	179	756	782
Star of Sea Boys'	260	52	146	170
Star of Sea Girls'	247	52	128	129
Wheatfield	497	60	208	206
Whitehouse Junior	247	74	258	276
Wolfhill	208	17	37	37
Woodvale Junior	434	72	308	335
No School	—	13	39	45
TOTALS	21,073	6,479	19,221	22,574

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(continued)

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
PRIMARY SCHOOLS:—Area 3				
Avoniel Junior	713	152	691	835
Beechfield Junior	621	118	587	599
Belmont Junior	409	133	493	433
Belvoir Hall Junior	326	43	108	230
Bloomfield	231	29	137	179
Christian Brothers	277	32	162	194
Elmgrove	942	230	1,173	1,345
Euston Street Junior	232	133	570	399
Euston Street Senior	850	221	915	983
Greenwood House	145	2	5	8
Harding Memorial	846	262	1,170	1,196
Lagan Village	79	24	67	66
Lomond Avenue	172	42	184	190
Megain Memorial Junior	468	109	422	568
Memel Street Junior	134	27	97	89
Mersey Street	886	137	534	685
Mountpottinger Infant's	149	132	574	578
Mountpottinger	388	42	168	197
Nazareth House	113	1	3	1
Nazareth Lodge	141	1	2	3
Nettlefield	754	324	1,352	1,428
Orangefield	642	265	1,152	1,089
Ormeau Park	483	213	747	732
Ravenhill Road Junior	288	99	368	372
Rosario Boys'	203	57	260	299
Rosario Girls'	210	91	357	446
Rosetta	682	212	878	923
Roslyn Street Junior	115	49	189	232
St. Anthony's Boys'	169	37	159	182
St. Anthony's Girls'	204	31	161	166
St. Colman's	318	47	185	224
St. Congall's Boys'	84	23	86	156
St. Congall's Girls'	125	54	111	152
St. Joseph's Boys'	149	26	108	120
St. Joseph's Girls'	126	16	66	69
St. Jude's	308	134	575	585
St. Malachy's Convent	500	168	568	758
St. Matthew's Boys'	468	23	95	139
St. Matthew's Girls'	499	16	81	80
Strand	694	123	431	336
Strandtown	1,251	275	1,148	993
Sydenham	466	70	296	261
Templemore Avenue	850	31	112	126
No School	—	9	55	57
TOTALS	17,710	4,263	17,602	18,813

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(continued)

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS:				
Area 1				
Linfield	697	144	353	394
Area 2				
Edenderry	536	69	208	229
Glenwood	718	129	333	391
Graymount Girls'	424	106	295	316
Mountcollyer	726	155	439	496
TOTAL	2,404	459	1,275	1,432
Area 3				
Ashfield Boys'	647	10	65	56
Ashfield Girls'	245	28	138	101
Park Parade	799	217	888	918
TOTAL	1,691	255	1,091	1,075
TOTAL (All Areas)	4,792	858	2,719	2,901

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(continued)

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
TECHNICAL, PREPARATORY and GRAMMAR:				
Area 1				
Ashleigh House	386	16	50	73
" " (Ardeen)	57	—	—	—
Christian Brothers' Grammar	645	145	297	353
Grosvenor High	662	260	834	966
Methodist College	1,515	256	926	1,097
Princess Gardens	282	33	130	137
Richmond Lodge	328	11	38	45
Royal Academical Institution	912	86	276	296
" " " (Inchmarlo)	245	15	57	94
Technical Intermediate	465	214	625	763
Victoria College	364	19	30	46
" " (Drumglass House)	44	4	4	8
TOTAL	5,905	1,059	3,267	3,878
Area 2				
Christian Brothers' Technical	269	119	291	467
Royal Academy	703	102	422	456
" " (Ben Madigan)	50	4	12	18
" " (Wingfield)	122	10	37	46
" " (Sinclair Memorial)	68	14	33	49
TOTAL	1,212	249	795	1,036
Area 3				
Annadale Boys'	600	173	722	746
Ashfield Girls'	325	119	501	588
Bloomfield Collegiate	346	31	158	102
Cabin Hill	265	2	2	3
Methodist College (Downey House)	269	37	145	142
TOTAL	1,805	362	1,528	1,581
TOTAL (All Areas)	8,922	1,670	5,590	6,495

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(continued)

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
NURSERY SCHOOLS AND CENTRES:				
Area 1				
Arellian	24	1	2	4
Forth River	45	3	6	9
Area 2				
Edenderry	52	4	13	18
Frederick Street	27	1	4	5
Jennymount	34	1	6	9
Tudor Lodge	42	2	2	6
Area 3				
McArthur	50	2	4	6
Owen O'Cork	27	—	—	—
TOTAL (All Areas)	301	14	37	57

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(continued)

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
SPECIAL SCHOOLS:				
Area 1				
Blind, Deaf and Dumb	—	—	—	—
Area 2				
Balmoral Training	100	85	326	303
Blind, Deaf and Dumb	—	—	—	—
Graymount	151	40	67	154
Mount Vernon	161	24	77	84
Area 3				
Blind, Deaf and Dumb	48	1	1	1
Oakleigh	182	60	221	267
Victoria Homes	24	4	15	9
TOTAL (All Areas)	666	214	707	818

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(continued)

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
SCHOOLS OUTSIDE BOUNDARY:				
Area 1	—	21	67	53
Area 2	—	13	64	95
Area 3	—	11	77	89
TOTAL (All Areas)	—	45	208	237

Dental Clinic Attendances:—School Group Totals

School Group	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
Primary	59,472	16,764	53,984	61,918
Intermediate	4,792	858	2,719	2,901
Technical, Preparatory and Grammar	8,922	1,670	5,590	6,495
Nursery and Nursery Centre	301	14	37	57
Special	666	214	707	818
Schools Outside Boundary	—	45	208	237
TOTAL (All areas and Schools)	74,153	19,565	63,245	72,426

Dental Treatment in Clinics

TREATMENTS	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
EXTRACTIONS:				
Temporary Dentition	6,259	7,032	5,264	18,555
Permanent Dentition	1,132	1,739	948	3,819
Total	7,391	8,771	6,212	22,374
„ (per cent of Treatments)	(29·7)	(34·2)	(28·2)	(30·9)
ANAESTHETICS:				
Local	65	285	79	429
General	3,794	4,585	3,344	11,723
Total	3,859	4,870	3,423	12,152
„ (per cent of Treatments)	(15·6)	(19·0)	(15·6)	(16·8)
FILLINGS:				
Temporary Dentition	840	828	1,204	2,872
Permanent Dentition	11,228	9,196	9,584	30,008
Total	12,068	10,024	10,788	32,880
„ (per cent of Treatments)	(48·6)	(39·2)	(49·1)	(45·4)
SPECIAL TREATMENTS:				
Orthodontic	—	—	—	—
X-Ray	118	43	120	281
Prosthetic	—	—	—	—
Total	118	43	120	281
„ (per cent of Treatments)	(0·5)	(0·2)	(0·5)	(0·4)
SUBSIDIARY TREATMENTS:				
Dressings (Tooth)	381	824	494	1,699
Scalings	102	88	68	258
Polishings	170	213	193	576
Other Operations	727	775	704	2,206
Total	1,380	1,900	1,459	4,739
„ (per cent of Treatments)	(5·6)	(7·4)	(6·6)	(6·5)
CLINICAL INSPECTIONS	7,199	8,445	7,612	23,256
TOTAL TREATMENTS	24,816	25,608	22,002	72,426

Analysis of Treatment Sessions

ITEMS	TOTALS
TREATMENT SESSIONS: (Half-day)	
Extractions }	672
Anaesthetics }	
Fillings }	5,238
Subsidiary Treatments }	
Clinical Inspections }	
Special Treatments	89
TOTAL TREATMENT SESSIONS	5,999

Dental Treatment Averages

ITEMS								AVERAGE
TREATMENT AVERAGE (Children):								
Extractions	.....	(Per Child Treated)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.4
Anaesthetics	.....	( " " " )	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.8
Fillings	.....	( " " " )	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.0
Subsidiary Treatments	.....	( " " " )	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.3
Special Treatments	.....	( " " " )	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.02
TOTAL TREATMENTS (Per Child Treated)								4.48
CLINICAL INSPECTION:								
Check Inspections	.....	(Per Child Inspected)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.0
TREATMENT AVERAGE (Staff):								
Extractions	.....	(Per Extraction Session)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33.3
"	.....	(Per Anaesthetic)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.8
Anaesthetics	.....	(Per Extraction Session)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.1
Fillings	.....	(Per Filling Session)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.3
Subsidiary Treatments	.....	( " " " )	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.9
Special Treatments	.....	(Per Special Treatment Session)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.2
Clinical Inspection	.....	(Per Treatment Session)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.9
PATIENTS								5110.4
INDIVIDUALS TREATED (per Surgeon)								1320.7

Staff Complement:—Clinic Accommodation

ITEMS								TOTALS
STAFF COMPLEMENT:								
Senior Dental Officer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Dental Officers	.....	(Full-time)	} Equivalent Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.18
" "	.....	(Sessional)		.....	.....	.....	.....	2.1
Anaesthetists	.....	(Sessional)	} Equivalent Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Dental Clinic Nurses	.....	(Full-time)		.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Dental Attendants	.....	(Full-time)	Administration	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
" "	.....	(Full-time)	Inspection	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
" "	.....	(Full-time)	Reception	.....	.....	.....	.....	13.9
" "	.....	(Full-time)	Surgical (Equivalent Total)	.....	.....	.....	.....	41.18
TOTAL DENTAL STAFF (Full-time Equivalent)								41.18
CLINICS:								
Area 1.	(Dental Surgery accommodation for 4 Officers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Area 2.	(Dental Surgery accommodation for 4 Officers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Area 3.	(Dental Surgery accommodation for 4 Officers)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
TOTAL DENTAL CLINICS								5

Comparative Dental Totals:—1951—1952—1953

ITEMS	1951	1952	1953	1953 compared 1952
SCHOOL DENTAL INSPECTION:				
				(per cent)
Schools visited	72	118	196	(+) 39·8
Visits	216	244	574	(+) 40·1
Inspection Sessions	213	338	573	(+) 41·0
Notified for Inspection	26,795	44,536	74,712	(+) 40·4
Refusing Inspection	3	—	—	—
Absent from Inspection (per cent)	(11·4)	(12·2)	(12·6)	(+) 0·4
Inspected	23,726	39,087	65,300	(+) 40·1
Defective	18,683	28,573	51,568	(+) 44·6
Defective (per cent)	(78·7)	(73·1)	(79·0)	(+) 5·9
POST-INSPECTION NOTIFICATION:				
Notified as Defective	12,262	21,129	40,193	(+) 47·4
" " " (per cent)	(65·6)	(73·9)	(77·9)	(+) 4·0
RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION:				
No Response (per cent)	(7·8)	(7·5)	(6·6)	(—) 0·9
Refusing Treatment (per cent)	(11·8)	(8·4)	(10·7)	(+) 2·3
Consenting to Treatment:—				
TOTAL (per cent)	(80·5)	(84·1)	(82·4)	(—) 1·7
By own Dentist (per cent)	(13·2)	(20·7)	(24·5)	(+) 3·8
At Clinics (per cent)	(86·8)	(79·3)	(75·5)	(—) 3·8
TREATMENT ARRANGED:				
Appointments—				
Issued (Total)	8,561	14,103	25,008	(+) 43·6
Per cent Clinic Applications	(100·0)	(100·0)	(100·0)	—
Per cent Defectives Notified	(69·8)	(66·7)	(62·2)	(—) 4·5
Per cent Defectives Inspected	(45·8)	(49·4)	(48·5)	(—) 0·9
ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS:				
New Patients (per cent)	(12·8)	(13·6)	(10·4)	(—) 3·2
Previous Patients (per cent)	(87·2)	(86·4)	(89·6)	(+) 3·2
Total Patients	45,643	58,178	63,245	(+) 8·0
Individuals	13,482	18,579	19,565	(+) 5·0
" (per cent of Roll Defectives)	(23·9)	(34·6)	(33·4)	(—) 1·2
TREATMENTS:				
Extractions—				
Temporary Dentition	17,675	21,927	18,555	(—) 15·4
Permanent Dentition	2,541	3,880	3,819	(—) 1·6
Total	20,216	25,807	22,374	(—) 13·3
Anaesthetics—				
Local	295	453	429	(—) 5·3
General	10,433	12,283	11,723	(—) 4·6
Total	10,728	12,736	12,152	(—) 4·6
Fillings—				
Temporary Dentition	1,291	1,318	2,872	(+) 54·1
Permanent Dentition	13,081	21,394	30,008	(+) 28·7
Total	14,372	22,712	32,880	(+) 30·8
Special Treatments—				
Orthodontic	—	16	—	—
X-Ray	143	212	281	(+) 24·6
Prosthetic	—	—	—	—
Dressings (Tooth)	656	1,525	1,699	(+) 10·2
Scalings	112	173	258	(+) 32·9
Polishings	333	494	576	(+) 14·2
Other Operations	2,846	2,130	2,206	(+) 3·4
Clinical Inspections	22,407	25,630	23,256	(—) 9·3
TOTAL TREATMENTS	49,406	65,805	72,426	(+) 9·1
" Individuals Treated	7,922	15,750	16,177	(+) 2·6
" " (per cent Roll Defectives)	(14·0)	(29·3)	(29·1)	(—) 0·2

Supplementary Dental Report

Dental Inspection in Non-Participating Schools

SCHOOL OR COLLEGE	Notified	Absent	Refusing	Total Inspected	Total Defective	Per cent Defective
Belfast High School	407	9	—	398	279	70·10
„ „ „ (Somerton House)	195	7	—	188	124	65·96
Dominican College	418	47	—	371	282	76·01
St. Dominic's School	635	52	—	583	374	64·15
St. Malachy's College	753	103	—	650	557	85·69
Victoria College (Strathearn)	293	18	—	275	101	36·73
TOTALS	2,701	236	—	2,465	1,717	69·66

Summarised Dental Report*

Section (I)

1. Number of Children on School Rolls: (Participating)	74,153
2. Number of Children inspected by Dental Officers. (In Schools)	65,300
Specially Inspected (Check Inspections in Clinics)	23,256
TOTAL Inspected	88,556
3. Number found to require Treatment (79.0%)	51,568†
4. Number actually treated (Individuals)	16,177
5. Attendances made by Children for Treatment	39,989
6. Half-days devoted to Inspection (In Schools)	573
„ „ „ Treatment	5,999
TOTAL	6,572
7. Fillings (Permanent Teeth)	30,008
„ (Temporary Teeth)	2,872
TOTAL	32,880
8. Extractions (Permanent Teeth)	3,819
„ (Temporary Teeth)	18,555
TOTAL	22,374
9. Administration of General Anaesthetics	11,723
10. Polishings	576
11. Scaling	258
12. Other Operations	2,206

Section (II)

As Text and Main Report Statistics.

Section (III)

Nil.

*—As prescribed by Ministry of Health and Local Government.

†—As a result of School Inspection.

‡—Total Clinic Attendances:—63,245. Total Treatments:—72,426.

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